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TOPOGRAPHY

OF

Great Britain,

OR,

BRITISH TRAVELLER'S

POCKET DIRECTORY;

BEING AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE

TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

OF

ALL THE COUNTIES

IN

England, Scotland, and Wales,

WITH THE

ADJACENT ISLANDS:

ILLUSTRATED WITH

MAPS OF THE COUNTIES,

WHICH FORM

A COMPLETE BRITISH ATLAS.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

VOL. II.

CONTAINING

SOMERSETSHIRE AND DORSETSHIRE.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW;

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Natural History,
Lakes,	Commerce,	

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which are prefixed,

The direct and principal Cross Roads,
Inns and Distance of Stages,
Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.

Also,

A LIST OF THE FAIRS;

And an Index Table,

Shewing, at one View, the Distances of all the Towns from London, and of Towns from each other.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

The whole forming

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY,

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE COUNTY,

And Four interesting Views.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR

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AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1820.

LONDON:
Printed by W. CLOWES, Northumberland-court.

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A TABLE

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET,

Their Distance from London, Markets, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, with the Time of the Arrival and Departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dist	Markets.	Houses	Inhabitants	Post arrives.	Departs.
					H.	H
Ashill	139		1491	8712		
Axbridge	130	Thurs.	158	835	5 a	5 m
Bath	103	W. S.	3933	31496	10 m	5 3-qr. a
Bruton	110	Sat.	353	1536	4 a	9 m
Bridgewater	139	Thurs.	857	4911	4 a	9 m
Bristol	119	M. W. F. S.	11,940	76,433	11 3-qr m	4 a
Castle Cary	115	Tues.	281	1408	5 a	8 m
Chard	140	Mon.	594	2932	5 a	9 m
Crewkerne	132	Sat.	981	5320	4 3-qr. a	8 3-qr. m
Crowcombe	150	Tues.	103	611		
Dulverton	166	Sat.	204	1035		
Dunster	158	Frid.	162	864		
Frome	107	W. S.	1722	9439	11 m	3 a
Glastonbury	136	Tues.	410	2035	2 1-qr. a	11 m
Ilminster	135	Sat.	364	2160	6 a	9 m
Ivelchester	125	Wed.	85	610		
Keynsham	114	Thurs.	318	1748		
Langport	131	Sat.	112	861	5 a	7 m
Milborne Port	114		224	1000		
Milverton	152	Frid.	322	1637		
Minehead	162	Wed.	255	1037	11 a	2 m
North Petherton	137	Tues.	537	2815		
Pensford	116	Tues.	64	296		
Shepton Mallet	116	Frid.	1078	4638	3 a	11 m
Somerton	126	Tues.	323	1478	4 a	9 m
South Petherton	129	Tues.	345	1867		
Taunton	144	W. F.	1533	9272	5 3-qr. a	7 m
Wellington	152	Thurs.	721	3874	7 a	6 1-half m
Wells	122	W. S.	852	5156	1 3-qr. a	11 3-qr. m
Wincanton	108	Wed.	377	1850		
Wiveliscombe	156	Tues.	527	2550		
Yeovil	122	Frid.	448	3118	2 8-qr. a	10 3-qr. m

The price of postage for a single letter varies from 8*d.* to 10*d.* throughout the county.

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INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN.

The names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet, gives the distance.

	Axbridge,	Bath	Bruton,	Bridgewater	Castle-Cary	Chard	Crewkerne	Dulverton	Dunster	Frome	Glastonbury	Ivelchester	Ilminster	Langport	Milborne Port	Milverton	Minchead	Pensford	Petherton, South	Shepton Mallet	Somerton	Taunton	Wellington	Wells	Wincanton	Wiveliscombe	Yeovil	Bristol	Distance from London, Miles,
Bath	28																												108
Bruton	21	24																											110
Bridgewater	18	40	27																										139
Castle-Cary	23	26	3	24																									115
Chard	44	56	30	23	27																								140
Crewkerne	37	42	23	31	23	8																							132
Dulverton	46	68	54	28	51	32	40																						166
Dunster	41	63	15	23	47	25	44	13																					158
Frome	26	12	12	36	16	40	36	63	39																				107
Glastonbury	15	24	17	16	14	29	22	14	39	20																			136
Ivelchester	27	33	15	20	10	17	10	15	13	24	12																		125
Ilminster	29	45	27	25	22	5	8	33	35	36	24	12																	135
Langport	28	36	18	12	15	14	13	31	35	29	13	8	9																131
Milborne Port	33	36	10	31	10	26	18	56	54	25	22	12	23	20															111
Milverton	33	55	41	15	38	18	26	15	18	51	31	22	20	23	43														152
Minchead	43	65	52	25	48	37	46	13	2	61	41	15	37	37	56	20													162
Pensford	16	10	21	34	22	46	39	65	57	18	20	29	41	32	32	49	59												116
Petherton, South	34	40	22	27	19	10	5	38	10	33	19	7	5	8	18	25	42	36											129
Shepton Mallet	14	18	7	27	8	32	25	54	50	10	11	15	27	18	18	41	52	14	18										116
Somerton	23	31	13	17	10	20	14	41	13	24	8	14	16	5	14	28	45	27	11	13									126
Taunton	29	51	33	11	30	16	20	24	23	15	27	24	12	12	35	8	25	47	17	33	17								144
Wellington	36	58	40	18	37	14	22	18	22	52	34	31	19	22	42	4	24	52	24	40	27	7							152
Wells	10	19	12	21	13	34	27	49	44	15	5	17	29	18	23	36	46	15	24	6	13	32	39						122
Wincanton	27	29	5	30	6	32	24	57	53	17	20	13	15	21	8	44	55	26	24	12	16	36	42	17					108
Wiveliscombe	34	56	43	16	11	23	32	12	16	52	32	35	23	26	46	3	18	50	28	44	31	11	6	37	46				156
Yeovil	32	38	15	25	14	17	9	47	18	28	17	5	14	12	9	34	50	34	9	16	9	26	33	22	15	37			122
Bristol	18	12	27	35	28	52	45	67	58	24	26	35	47	38	38	50	60	6	42	26	33	46	53	21	32	51	40		119

AN INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

SOMERSETSHIRE is situated in the Diocese of BATH and WELLS, and Province of CANTERBURY.

Bounded by	*Extent.*	*Contains*	*Sends to Parliament*	*Produce and Manufactures.*
Gloucestershire, the Irish Sea, and the Severn, on the north; On the east by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire; And on the west and south-west by Devonshire.	In length, from east to west, about 80 miles. In breadth about 35 miles. And about 200 miles in circumference. About 1,100,000 acres.	2 Cities, *viz.* Bath and Wells; to which we shall add in our description, Bristol. 34 Towns, 482 Parishes, and 42 Hundreds. No. of houses 52,462, inhabitants 303,180, *viz.* 141,449 males, and 161,731 females, exclusive of the city of Bristol.	18 Members, with Bristol, *viz.* 2 for the County 2 Bath 2 Bridgewater 2 Bristol 2 Ilchester 2 Milborne Port 2 Minehead 2 Taunton 2 Wells	Somersetshire is remarkable chiefly for its agricultural produce. The Northern Division of the County abounds in a variety of valuable minerals; principally Lead, Lapis Calaminaris, and Coal. Its Manufactures are all sorts of Woollen Cloth.

According to the Returns made to the House of Commons, this County appears to have raised for the Maintenance of the Poor, in 1803, the sum of 151,237*l.*

AN ITINERARY

OF THE

DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

SOMERSETSHIRE,

In which is included the STAGES, INNS, and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N.B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left Roads are distinguished by the letters R. *and* L.

LONDON TO BRISTOL,

THROUGH BATH.

LONDON to Kensington		1¾	On *R.* the Palace through Holland House, Lord Holland.
Hammersmith	1¾	3½	R. Ricardo, esq. *L.*; Margravine of Anspach, *R.*; and W. Hunter, esq. Inn—The Windsor Castle.
Turnham Green	1½	5	Sutton Court,—Cavendish, esq. Little Sutton,—Churton, esq. Grove House, Rev. Mr. Lowth, *L.* Fairlawn House, Earl of Portsmouth. Inn—Old Pack Horse.
London Stile *On L. a T. R. to Kew and Richmond.*	1	6	
BRENTFORD. *Cross the Grand Junction Canal and the Brent R.* *Through Brentford on L. a T. R. to Hampton Court.*	1	7	Entering on *L.* see Kew Bridge, and from the Town the new Palace built at Kew by his late Majesty. Through Brentford on *L.* Sion House; Duke of Northumberland, on *R.* Sion Hill; G. W. Taylor, esq. opposite, is Sion Lodge, Miss Hall; and about 1 m. to

			R. is Osterley Park, the Earl of Jersey. Inn—Pigeons.
Smallberry Green	1¼	8¼	Spring Grove, Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, bart, *R.*
HOUNSLOW. *Through on L. the Great T. R. to the Land's End.* *Cross Hounslow Heath.*	1	9¼	1 m. on *L.* see Whitton Place, G. Gostling, esq. and Whitton Park, celebrated for its fine cedars of Lebanon; Sir B. Hobhouse, and Sam. Prime, esq.; near is Whitton Dean, James Campbell, esq. At the 11 m. stone on *R.* see Easton Place, Colonel Nesbit. Inns—The George and King's Head.
Cranford Bridge	3	12¼	½ m. on *R.* Cranford Park, Countess Berkeley. Inn—The White Hart.
Sipson Green	1¼	13½	
Longford *Cross the Old R. which runs on L. into the Thames. and the New R. which passes to Bushy Park.* *At a small distance cross two branches of the Colne and at about 1 m. again cross the Colne Enter Bucks.*	1½	15	Near on *L.* Stanwell House, Sir E. F. Stanhope, bart., and Stanwell Place, Sir John Gibbons, bart. Abont 2 m. from Longford, on *R.* at West Drayton, F. De Burgh, esq.
COLNBROOK. 1 m. *beyond on L a T. R. to Windsor.*	1¾	16¾	Near on *R.* Riching's Park, Right Hon. John Sullivan. 1 m. on *L.* Horton House. Inns—George and White Hart.
Langley Broom	1½	18¼	Ditton Park, Lord Montague; *L.* Langley Park; Sir R. B. Harvey, bart. *R.*
Tetsworth Water	1	19¼	
SLOUGH	1¼	20½	H. Dawes, esq. *R.* Sir W. Herschell, *L.* Between Slough and

On L. a T. R. to Windsor.			Salt Hill, on *R.* see Baylis, March. of Thomond; on *L.* Windsor Castle, Eton College, and Cranbourn Lodge, unoccupied; Clewer Spire; Sophia Farm; — Dawson, esq and St. Leonard's-hill, Earl Harcourt. Inn—The Crown.
Salt Hill	$\frac{3}{4}$	$21\frac{1}{4}$	See from the Castle Inn Stokespire and Farnham Royal Church; Brilwell House, Hon. George Irby; Dropmore Hill, Lord Grenville; and Burnham Church and Village, and from the Castle Inn Gardens, a grand view of Windsor Castle, Eton College, &c. Inns—Castle and Windmill.
Maidenhead Bridge *Cross the Thames Enter Berks.*	4	$25\frac{1}{4}$	Taplow, Lord Riversdale, a White House, P. Grefell, esq. and Lady Courtenay, *R.* On top of the Hill, Countess of Orkney; and Taplow Lodge, P.C. Bruce, esq. nearly opposite Water Oakley,—Harford, esq. Felbent C. Fuller, esq. and the Retreat, — Stone, esq. Inn—King's Arms.
MAIDENHEAD *On R. a T. R. to Great Marlow.*	$\frac{3}{4}$	26	A little before on *R.* Lady Pocock; opposite, Sir W. Hearne. At on *L.* Ives House. Wilson, esq. on *R.* Hall-place, Sir W. East, bt. and Bisham Abbey, George Vansittart, esq. Inn—The Sun.
The Folly *On R. a T. R. to Henley and Oxford.*	$\frac{3}{4}$	$26\frac{3}{4}$	
Maidenhead Thicket	$1\frac{1}{4}$	28	Entering on *L.* see Heywood Lodge, John Sawyer,

On R. a T. R. to Henley.			esq. At on *L.* see the spire of Shottesbrooke Church, near which a Seat of Arthur Vansittart, esq. Near the end of the Thicket on *L.* Woolley Hall, Pinke Lee, esq., and Stubbins; Lady Dorchester, *R.*
Kiln Green	3	31	Henry Fonnereau, esq. *R.* and Scarlet L. Perrot, esq. *L.*
Hare Hatch	1	32	Near on *R.* Bear Place, Sir Morris Ximenes; entrance of Hare Hatch on *R.*; — Dalton, esq.; on *L.* see Ruscombe House, Sir R. Poole.
Troyford *Wilts.* *Cross the Loddon R. Re-enter Berkshire.* 4 m. *from Twyford on L. a T. R. to Oakingham.*	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$33\frac{3}{4}$	1 m. from on *R.* see Sheplake Hill, Mrs. Newell. About 1 m. on *L.* Stanlake, Sir N. Dukenfield, bart.
READING *Cross the Kennet R. On R. a T. R. to Henley and Wallingford on L. to Basingstoke.*	5	$38\frac{3}{4}$	Inns—The Bear and Crown. Early Court, Hon. W. Townsend, *L.*; a little beyond is Woodley Lodge, J. Wheble, esq. On *R.* see Caversham House, Major Marsack. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond Reading on *R.* is Coley Park, Berkeley Monck, esq.; Prospect Hill, J. Liebenrood, esq. *R.*
Calcot Green	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$41\frac{1}{2}$	Calcot Park, G. Blagrave, esq. *R.* and further Tylehurst Parsonage, Rev. Dr. Routh.
Theal 1 *M. from Theal on* R. *a T. R. to Wallingford, and a little before Woolhampton on* L. *to*	2	$43\frac{1}{2}$	On *L.* see Sulhampsted, Mrs. Thoytes. 1 m. on *R.* Englefield House, R. Benyon, esq.; 2 m. on *R.* Beenham House, Mrs. Bostock. Inn—The Falcon.

Basingstoke and Whitchurch.			
Woolhampton	5½	49	1½ m. before see on *L.* Padworth House, Gen. Griffiths; 1 m. beyond on *L.* Aldermaston House and Park, W. Congreve, esq.; 1 m. from on *L.* Wassing Place, W. Mount, esq.; about 2 m. further on *R.* is Midgham House. Inn—The Angel.
Thatcham *At about two M. cross the Lambourn* R. *which runs on* L. *to the* R. *Kennet.*	3¾	52¾	Wm. S. Poyntz, esq.
Speenhamland *Immediately adjoining on* L. *is*	3	55¾	Near on *R.* Shaw House, Sir Joseph Andrews, bart. Inn—George and Pelican.
NEWBURY *On* R. *a T. R. to Oxford.*	—	55¾	Inn—The White Hart.
Speen Hill	½	56¼	On *R.* Mrs. Wasey and Mrs. Craven, opposite whom Goldwell Hall, Col. Page; a little further is Miss Hulberts: just beyond Mrs. St. Quintin; further on *R.* Chaucer's Grove, John Beble, esq. and Donnington Castle House, Col. Stead; in the bottom F. C. Parry, esq. Inn—The Castle.
Speen *On* R. *a T. R. to Lambourn.*	½	56¾	On *L.* Donnington House, Rev. G. Wyld.
Benham Park	½	57½	Benham Park, Anthony Bacon, esq. At the end of Benham Park on *L.* Hemstead Lodge, Earl of Craven.
Halfway House *Cross the Kennet* R. *and just before*	2	59½	1½ m. on *L.* Banton Court, C. Dundas, esq.; and further on *L.* see Wallingtons, R. Ward,

you enter Hungerford cross it again.			esq. and Inglewood House, Mrs. Shaw.
HUNGERFORD *On* R. *a T. R. to Oxford.* *Wilts*	4½	64	Within 1 m. of on *L.* Hungerford Park, J. Willis, esq.; on *R.* at Denford Wm. Hallett, esq.; at Hungerford Bridge on *R.* see Chilton Lodge, J. Pearce, esq. a Military Depôt, *L.* within ½ m. from Hungerford on *R.* Littlecot Park, General Leyborne Popham, about 2 m. beyond Ramsbury Manor House, Sir F. Burdett, bart.; on *L.* Standon Park, S. Bevan, esq. Inn—Blue Bear.
Froxfield, Wilts *Cross the Kennet*	2¾	66¾	On *R.* an Alms House for Clergymen's widows, founded by the Dutchess of Somerset.
Marlborough Forest	4¼	71	Severnake Lodge, Earl of Aylesbury.
Marlborough *On* R. *a T. R. to Swindon, on* L. *to Andover.*	3	74	Within 1 m. of on L. is an Avenue to Tottenham Park through Severnake Forest; through Marlborough on *L.* is the Castle Inn, formerly a Seat of the Duke of Somerset. Inns—Castle and Marlboro' Arms.
Manton	1½	75½	
Fifield	1¼	76¾	
Overton	1	77¾	Within 1 m. of on *L.* is Lockridge House, Rev. —— Watkins; ½ m. beyond on *L.* Kennet Hall, —— Matthews, esq.
West Kennet *Cross the Kennet.*	1½	79¼	½ m. beyond on *R.* Silbury Hill a remarkable Barrow, at some distance from which on *R.* is Avebury or Abury, noted for the stupendous remains of a Druid's Temple,

			and Avebury or Abury House, — Jones, esq.
Silbury Hill	$\frac{3}{4}$	80	
Beckhampton	$\frac{3}{4}$	$80\frac{3}{4}$	
On R. *T. R. to Highworth, on* L. *to Devizes, cross the Downs to*			
Cherril	3	$83\frac{3}{4}$	At on *L.* a White Horse cut out upon the hill, a remarkable landmark; $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. further on *R.* at a distance from the road, Compton Basset House, — Wyld, esq., and on Blackland House, J. Merewether, esq.
Quermerford	$2\frac{1}{4}$	86	
Cross a branch of the R. Marden			
CALNE	1	87	On *L.* Castle House, Mrs. Bendry.
About 1 *M. from Calne cross a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal and Calne* R. *On* R. *a T. R. to Wotton Basset, on* L. *to Devizes.*			Inns—Catherine Wheel and White Hart.
Studley	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$89\frac{3}{4}$	Romsey House, B. J. Angel, esq.; *L.* through on *L.* Bowood the superb Seat of the Marquis of Lansdown.
Derry Hill	$\frac{1}{4}$	90	
On L. *a T. R. to Devizes, at a little distance cross the Wilts and Berks Canal, and a branch of the Avon.*			
CHIPPENHAM	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$92\frac{3}{4}$	Through on *L.* Ivy House, R. Humphreys, esq.
Cross the Avon R. *On* R. *a T. R. to Malmsbury, Sodbury*			Inns—Angel and White Hart.

and Marshfield. 1 *M. further on* L. *to Melksham.*			
Pickwick *On* L. *a T. R. to Devizes.*	$4\frac{1}{4}$	97	Hartham Park, M. Joy. esq., and Pickwick Lodge, Caleb Dickenson, esq. *R.*
Box	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$99\frac{3}{4}$	1 m. on *R.* Shockerwick, John Wiltshire, esq.
Ashley Green *Entrance of Bath Easton on* L. *a T. R. to Devizes.*	$\frac{1}{2}$	100	
Bath Easton *Somers.*	—	—	Bath Easton Villa, Dr. Broadbelt, *R.*; on *L.* Hampton House, G. Allen, esq., and Lambridge House, Dr. Haygarth; on *R.* Bailbrook Lodge Col. Tuffnell.
BATH	$1\frac{1}{4}$	105	Inns—Lamb, White Hart, White Lion, and York Hotel.
Twiverton 1 *M. beyond on* L. *a T. R. to Wells and Frome.*	2	107	1 m. beyond on *L.* Newton, St. Looe, Park, W. G. Langton, esq.; $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Twiverton on *R.* see Kelson House, Sir J. C. Hawkins, bart.
Keynsham	$5\frac{3}{4}$	113	Through on *R.* Hanham Hall, — Crisick, esq.; 2 m. from Keynsham on *L.* — Ireland, esq.
Brislington	3	116	Halfway House, — Mackey, esq.; just beyond Arno's Vale, J. Maxie, esq.
Redcliffe *Cross the Avon R.*	$2\frac{1}{4}$	118	
Bristol, *Gloucester*	—	118	Near on *L.* Red Lodge, — Townsend, esq. Inns—Bush, Full Moon, Talbot, White Hart, and White Lion.

BATH TO SHERBORNE,

THROUGH SHEPTON-MALLET.

BATH to			
— — —	4	4	Combhay, Lee Smith, esq. *L.*
Dunkerton	1	5	
— — —	1	6	Woodborough, John Parnell, esq. *L.* Camerton House, — Chichester, esq. *R.*
Radstock	1	7	
— — —	3	10	Norton Hall, late J. Tooker, esq.
— — —	1	11	Charlton House, Rev. W. P. Wickham *L.*
Stratton	1	12	Stratton House, C. Knatchbull, esq. *L.* Downside House, J. H. Ackerley, esq. *R.*
Nettlebridge	1	13	Stoke Folley, John Hody, Chicester, esq. *L.*
Ashwick	1	14	Ashwick Grove, Mrs. Billingsley, *L.*
Doulting	2	16	
SHEPTON MALLET	1	17	Inns—The Bell, and George.
Cannards Grave	1	18	
— — —	2	20	Evercreech, J. Rodburd, esq. *L.*
— — —	2	22	Ditchet, Hill Dawe, esq. and the Rev. Mr. Leir, *R.*
Ansford	2	24	
Ansford Inn	1	25	James Clarke, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	26	Hadspen House, Sir B. Hobhouse, bart.
— — —	3	29	Yarlington Lodge, J. Rogers, esq. *R.*
— — —	2	31	Cadbury House, —— Bennet, esq. *R.*
— — —	3	34	Corton Denham, Rev. John Wyndham, *R.*
Enter Dorset	1	35	
SHERBORNE	2	37	Inns—Antelope, and Globe.

WELLINGTON TO BRISTOL,

THROUGH TAUNTON AND BRIDGEWATER.

WELLINGTON to Chilson	1	1	
— — —	2	3	Heatherton, late Sir Thomas Gunston, bart. *L.*

Ramwell	1	4	
Bishop's Hull	1	5	
TAUNTON	2	7	Inns—Castle, London Inn, and White Hart.
Cole Bridge	2	9	
— — —	1	10	West Monkton, M. Brickdale, esq. the Rev. Mr. Crossman, and H. W. Sandford, esq. *L.*
North Petherton	6	16	
BRIDGEWATER	3	19	Inns—George, King's Head, and Swan.
— — —	4	23	Puriton, John Tucker, esq. *R.*
Huntspill	1	24	Huntspill House, T. Greenwood, esq. *R.* Thomas Jefferies, esq. *L.*
High Bridge	2	26	G. Saunders, esq. *R.*
Castle-Brent	3	29	Rev. Thomas Gould, B. D. *L.* Somerset Farm, Gabriel Stone, esq. *R.*
Cross	6	35	Solomon Trew, *R.*
— — —	1	36	Winscomb, F. E. Whalley, esq. *L.*
— — —	1	37	Silcot, Thos. Power, esq. *R.*
Churchill	3	40	
— — —	1	41	Langford Court, — Addington, esq. *R.*
— — —	3	44	Butcombe Court, John Savery, esq. *R.*
— — —	3	47	Barrow Court, T. Andrews, esq. *R.*
— — —	3	50	Ashton Court, Sir John H. Smith, bart. *L.*
Bedminster	1	51	
BRISTOL	1	52	Inns—Bush Tavern, Rummer Tavern, *&c.*

PORLOCK TO FROME,

THRO' DUNSTER, WATCHET, NETHER STOWEY, BRIDGEWATER, GLASTONBURY, AND SHEPTON-MALLET.

PORLOCK to Allerford	1	1	
Holnicote	1	2	Holnicote House, Hon. M. Fortescue, *R.*

Lynch	1	3	
Bratton	1	4	
Allcomb	3	7	
DUNSTER	3	10	Inn—Luttrell's Arms.
— — —	1	11	Dunster Castle, H. Fownes Luttrell, esq. *R.*
Carhampton	1	12	
Bilbrook	2	14	
St. Decuman's	1	15	
WATCHET	1	16	
Dineford	1	17	
— — —	1	18	Saint Andries House, Miss Balch, *R.*
West Quantock-[shead	1	19	
Pulsham	1	20	Klive Court, J. Sweeting, esq. *R.*
Holford	1	21	Alfoxton, L. St. Albyn, bart. *R.*
Doddington	2	23	Near is Fairfield House, Sir J. Ackland, bart.
NETHER STOWER	2	25	Inn—The Globe.
Kinthorn	1	26	
Padnoller	1	27	
Ashford	1	28	
— — —	1	29	Brymore House, Sir Philip Hales, bart. *L.*
Cannington	1	30	
Sandford Farm	1	31	
BRIDGEWATER	1	33	Inns—George, King's Head, and Swan.
— — —	8	41	Shapwick House, Rev. —— [Taylor.
Ashcott	1	42	
— — —	1		Piper's Inn.
Walton	1	43	
— — —	1	44	Sharpham Park, W. Gould, esq.
Street	1	45	Burleigh House, Lord Glaston-[bury.
Wearyall Hill	1	46	
GLASTONBURY	1	47	Inn—White Hart.
West Pennard	—	51	
Pilton	3	54	Wastholme, Partridge Smith, esq. *L.*
SHEPTON MALLET	3	57	Inns—George and Bell.
— — —	1	58	Charlton, Rev. W. Provis
Doulting	1	59	[Wickham.
Longcross Bottom	1	60	

Tattle House	1	61	
Little Elm	2	63	
— — —	1	64	Mells Park, T. S. Horner, esq.
Whatley	1	65	Rev. Dr. Bishop, *L.* [*L.*
Eggford	1	66	
FROME	1	67	Inns—George and Crown.

DULVERTON TO TAUNTON,

THROUGH WIVELISCOMBE.

DULVERTON to			
— — —	1	1	Pixton, Earl of Caernarvon.
Heal Bridge	1	2	Barren Down, Stukeley Lucas, esq. *R.*
Silkgate	2	4	
Chipstable	4	8	
WIVELISCOMBE	4	12	
Milverton	3	15	
Heathfield	3	18	
Norton Fitzwarren	3	21	
Langford Bridge	1	22	
— — —	1	23	Staple Grove, Capt. Smith. *L.*
TAUNTON	1	24	Inns—Castle, London Inn, and White Hart.

MINEHEAD TO CHARD,

THROUGH DUNSTER AND TAUNTON.

MINEHEAD to			
Allcomb	1	1	Ellicombe, Rev. G. H. Leigh, *R*
DUNSTER	1	2	Inn—Luttrell's Arms.
— — —	1	3	Dunster Castle, [H. F. Luttrell, esq. *R.*
Carhampton	1	4	
Nettlecombe	3	7	Sir John Trevelyan, bart. *R.*
Monksilver	3	10	
— — —	2	12	Hartrow House, Rev. T. S. [Escot, *L.*
Lydeard St. Lawrence	1	13	
— — —	2	15	West Bagborough, A. Popham, esq. *L.*
— — —	1	16	Combflory, J. F. Gwynn, esq. *L.*
— — —	1	17	Sandhill Park, Sir T. B. Leth- [bridge, bart. *R.*
Bishop's Lydeard	1	18	
Longford Bridge	3	21	

— — —	1	22	Staplegrove, Capt. Smith, *L.*
TAUNTON	1	23	Inns—Castle, London Inn, and White Hart.
— — —	3	26	Henlade, C. P. Anderdon, esq. *L.*
Orchard Portman	4	30	H. W. Portman, esq. *R.*
Staple Fitzpaine	1	31	
Curland	1	32	
Combe St. Nicholas	5	37	
CHARD	2	39	Inn—Red Lion.

TAUNTON TO SHERBORNE,

THROUGH ILMINSTER, CREWKERNE, AND YEOVIL.

TAUNTON to — — —	3	3	Henlade, C. P. Anderdon, esq.
Hatch Beauchamp	3	6	Hatch Court, H. P. Collins, esq. *L.*
Forest of Neroach	1	7	
Ashill	1	8	Rev. Thomas Alford, *L.*
Jordans	2	10	William Speke, esq. *L.*
ILMINSTER	2	12	Inn—The George.
Kingston	2	14	Dowlish Wake, John Hanning, esq. and S. A. Harbour, esq. *R.*
— — —	2	16	Hinton St. George, Earl Paulett, *L.*
CREWKERNE	4	20	Inns—The Swan, and George.
Hasleborough	2	22	William Hoskins, esq. *R.*
East Chinnock	2	24	
— — —	2	26	East Coker, W. Helyar, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	27	Brympton, Earl of Westmoreland, *L.*
YEOVIL	2	29	Inns—Three Choughs, and Mermaid.
River Yeo	1	30	Newton, W. Harbin, esq. *R.*
Babylon Hill	1	31	
— — —	1	32	Compton House, R. Goodwin, esq. *L.*
SHERBORNE	3	35	Inns—Antelope and Globe.

TAUNTON TO BRUTON,

THROUGH LANGPORT, SOMERTON, AND CASTLE-CARY.

TAUNTON to Thornfalcon	3	3	Henlade, C. P. Anderdon, esq. *R.*
Wrantage	4	7	Hatch Court, H. P. Collins, esq. *R.*
Rock House	1	8	Burton Pynsent, Countess Dowager of Chatham, *L.*
Curry Rivell	2	10	Samuel Farr, esq. *L.*
— — —	1	11	Hele House, Rev. S. Alford, [*L.*
LANGPORT	1	12	Inn—The Swan.
Pitney	2	14	
SOMERTON	3	17	Inns—Red Lion, and Pack-Horse.
— — —	1	18	Somerton-Early, Wm. Howe, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	19	Charlton-Mackerell, John Pyne, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	20	Kingweston House, William [Dickenson, esq. *L.*
Kenton Mandeville	1	21	
Lydford Green	3	24	
Alford	1	25	
Clanville	1	26	
CASTLE-CARY	1	27	Inn—The George.
Cole	1	28	
Pitcombe	1	29	Redlynch, Earl of Ilchester, *R.*
BRUTON	1	30	Inn—Blue Ball.

SHERBORNE TO BRISTOL,

THROUGH WINCANTON, FROME, AND BATH.

SHERBORNE to *Enter this County*	2	2	
Charlton Horethorn	3	5	
— — —	2	7	Maperton, W. Smith, esq. *L.*
North Cheriton	1	8	
WINCANTON	2	10	Inns—Bear, Greyhound, and White Horse.
Bayford	1	11	
Zeal's Green	3	13	

— — —	2	15	Stourhead House, Colt Hoare, bart. *L.* Zeal's House, Mrs. Grove, *R.*
Maiden Bradley	4	19	Bradley House, Duke of Somerset, *R.*
West Woodlands	4	23	Longleat, Marquis of Bath, *R.*
— -- —	1	24	Marston-Bigott, Earl o Cork and Orrery, *L.*
FROME	1	25	Inns—George, Crown and Blue Boar.
— — —	1	26	Frome Fields, P. Stevens, esq. *L.* North Hill, Thomas [Bradbury Winter, esq. *R.*
Oldford	1	27	
Beckington	1	28	Standerwick Court, Mrs. Ed-
Woolverton	1	29	[gill, *R.*
Norton St. Philip's	2	31	
Charterhouse, Hinton	2	33	
Mitford	1	34	Mitford Hall, late — Pugh esq. *R.*
BATH	3	37	Inns—White Hart, White Lion, Lamb, Tuns, &c.
Twiverton	1	38	
— — —	1	39	Newton St. Looe, Wm. Gore Langton, esq. *L.*
-- — —	2	41	Kelston House, Sir J. C. Haw
Saltford	2	43	[kins, *R*
Keynsham	1	44	
Brislington	2	46	— Ireland, esq. *L.*
— — —	1	47	Arno's Vale, J. Maxie, esq. *L.*
BRISTOL	2	49	Inns—Bush Tavern, Rummer Tavern, &c.

CHARD TO SHEPTON-MALLET,

THROUGH ILMINSTER, LANGPORT, AND SOMERTON.

CHARD to Sea	4	4	East Dowlish, Samuel Alford Harbour, esq. *R.*
ILMINSTER	1	5	Inn—The George.
-- -- --	1	6	Dillington, W. Hanning, esq.
Puckington	2	8	[*R.*

Hambridge	2	10	Earnshill, Mrs. Combes, *L.*
Curry Rivell	2	12	Samuel Farr, esq. *L.*
— — —	1	13	Hele House, Rev. S. Alford, *L.*
LANGPORT	1	14	Inn—The Swan.
Pitney	2	16	
SOMERTON	3	19	Inn—Red Lion, and Pack-Horse.
— — —	1	20	Somerton-Early, William Howe, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	21	Charlton-Mackerell, John Pyne, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	22	Kingweston House, W. Dickin-[son, esq. *L.*
Kingweston House			
Kenton Mandeville	1	23	
Lydford Green	2	25	Lydford House, S. Taunton, esq. *L.*
— — —	2	27	Ditchet, Hill Dawe, esq. *R.*
Pylle	2	29	E. B. Portman, esq. *L.*
Cannard's Grave	2	31	
SHEPTON-MALLET	1	32	Inns—Bell and George.

ILMINSTER TO FROME,

THROUGH YEOVIL, CASTLE-CARY, AND BRUTON.

ILMINSTER to White Lackington	2	2	
Sevington St. Mary	2	4	
Sevington St. Mi-[chael	1	5	Hinton St. George, Earl Powlett, *R.*
Watergore	2	7	
South Petherton	1	8	John Prouse, esq. *R.*
Stoke under Hamden			
East Stoke	1	9	
Montacute	1	10	Edward Phelips, esq. *L.*
Odcombe	1	11	
Preston	2	13	
YEOVIL	1	14	Inns—Three Choughs, and Mermaid.
Mudford	3	17	Trent, Rev. G. Beaver, *R.*
Marston-Magna	2	19	Rev. John Williams, *L.*
Queen Camel	2	21	Rev. Thomas Horner Pearson, [*R.*
Sparkford	2	23	

— — —	2	25	Cadbury House, [— Bennet, esq.
Galhampton	2	27	
CASTLE-CARY	1	28	Inn—The George.
— — —	1	29	Hadspen House, Sir B. Hobhouse, bart. *R.*
Pitcombe	1	30	Redlynch, Earl of Ilchester, *R.*
BRUTON	1	31	Inn—Blue Ball.
— — —	2	33	Spargrove, Thomas Coward, esq. *L.*
— — —	3	36	South Hill, Lieut.-Col. Strode, *L.*
Leighton	1	37	
— — —	4	41	Marston-Biggott, Earl of Cork and Orrery, *R.*
FROME	2	43	Inns—George and Crown.

TAUNTON TO BATH,

THROUGH GLASTONBURY AND WELLS.

TAUNTON to Maiden Brook	1	1	
Walford	2	3	
— — —	1	4	West Monkton, Matthew Brickdale, esq. Rev. Mr. Crossman, and Henry W. Sandford, esq. *L.*
Durston	2	6	
West Lyng	1	7	
East Lyng	1	8	
Athelney	2	10	
River Parret	1	11	
Middlezoy	2	13	
King's Sedgmoor	3	16	
Greinton	1	17	
Pedwell	1	18	
Piper's Inn	1	19	Piper's Inn.
Walton	1	20	Sharpham Park, William Gould, esq. *L.*
Street	1	21	Batleigh House, Lord Glaston- [bury, *R.*
Wearyall Hill	1	22	
GLASTONBURY	1	23	Inn—White Hart.
Chalice Hill	1	24	
East Sedgmoor / Polsham	1	25	
Coxley	2	27	

WELLS	1	28	Inns—Swan, George, and Three Kings.
Embrow	4	32	
Old Down Inn	1	33	
Stratton	3	36	
Chilcompton	1	37	Norton Hall, late J. Tooker, esq. *L.* Stratton House, Charles Knatchbull, esq. *R.*
— — —	1	38	Norton Down, Mr. Vagg, *L.* Charlton House, Rev. W. Provis Wickham, *R.*
— — —	2	40	Midsummer-Norton, William [Kelston, esq. *L.*
Radstock	1	41	
— — —	1	42	Camerton House,— Chichester esq. *L.* Woodborough, J. [Parnell, esq. *R.*
Dunkerton	1	43	
— — —	1	44	Combhay, Smith Lee, esq. *R.*
BATH	3	47	

BRISTOL TO SHEPTON-MALLET.

BRISTOL to Totterdown	1	1	
Knowl	1	2	
Whitchurch	1	3	
Pensford	3	6	
Chelwood	2	8	George Adams, esq. *R*
Clutton	1	9	
Temple Cloud	1	10	Inn—Temple Cloud.
Farrington Gurney	1	11	
Stoneaston	1	12	Stoneaston Park, Mrs. Coxe, *L.*
Old Down Inn	2	13	
Binegar	1	14	
— — —	1	15	Ashwick Grove, [Mrs. Billingsley *L.*
Little London	1	16	
SHEPTON-MALLET	3	19	Inn—Bell and George.

FAIRS IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

Ashbrittle—February 25, and Oct. 21, for cattle.

Ashill—April 17, and September 11, cattle of all sorts, and pedlary.

Axbridge—Feb. 3, March 25, cattle, sheep, cheese and toys.

Backwell—September 21, cattle, sheep, and colts.

Baghor West—May 12, cattle of all sorts.

Bayborough—May 23.

Banwell—Jan. 18, July 18, cattle, sheep, and cheese.

Bath—February 14, and July 10, cattle.

Binegar—Whit Monday, all sorts of cattle; Whit Tuesday, cloth & horses; Wed. sheep; Thursday, Horses.

Bishop's Lydiard—April 5, bullocks, horses, and sheep; September 8, all sorts of toys.

Blagdon—August 30, bullocks, horses, sheep, and toys.

Bridgewater—Mar. 7, June 24, Oct. 2, and Dec. 28; cattle, cheese, &c.

Bristol—March 1, leather, broad-cloth, and cattle; Sept. 1, broad-cloth, cattle, & all sorts of goods; each lasts ten days.

Broadway—September 14, cattle and pedlary.

Broomfield—Nov. 13, cattle, hats, and pewter goods.

Bruton—April 23 & Sept. 19, cattle.

Buckland—Oct. 10, cattle and cheese.

Buckland St. Mary—September 21, 22; horses the first day, bullocks the second.

Burnham—Trinity Monday, cattle, &c.

Castle-Cary—Tuesday before Palm Sunday, May 1, and Whit Tuesday; bullocks and sheep.

Chard—First Wednesday in May, August, and November.

Chedder—May 4, and Oct. 29, cattle, &c.

Chisselborough—Oct. 31, cattle, cheese, &c.

Cock Hill—Jan. 8, cattle.

Comb St. Nicholas—June 18, Wednesday before December 11, bullocks, horses, &c.

Conquersbury—September 14, cattle, &c.

Crewkerne—Sept. cattle, linen-drapery, cheese and toys.

Crowcombe—First Friday

in May, Monday after Aug. 1, October 31; for cattle and drapery.

Curvey-Rivel—August 5, cattle and sheep.

Dulverton—July 10, Nov. 8, cattle.

Dundry—Sept. 12, cattle, &c.

Dunster—Whit Monday, pedlary.

East Brent—Aug. 26, cattle, &c.

Freshford—September 6, cheese.

Frome—February 24, July 22, September 14, and November 25, cattle and cheese.

Glastonbury—Sep. 19, and October 11, horses and fat cattle.

Hinton St. George—April 23.

Holloway—May 14, cattle.

Huntspill—June 29, cattle and sheep.

Ilminster—Last Wednesday in August, horses, bullocks, pigs, sheep, cheese, &c.

Ivelchester—Monday before Palm Sunday, July 2, and August 2, cattle.

Keynsham—March 24, and August 15, cattle and cheese.

Kilmington—August 26.

Kingsbrumpton—Wednesday before Holy Thursday, Thursday se'nnight after Oct. 10, cattle.

Langeridge—Aug. 2, cattle

Langport—Second Monday in Lent, fat cattle; June 29, black cattle & lambs; October 5, cattle and colts; November 22, cattle, hogs and sheep.

Lansdown—Aug. 10, June 29, cattle and sundries; Oct. 5, and Nov. 22.

Lidford-Green—May 15, and August 12, cattle.

Limpsham—April 25, cattle and cheese.

Mark—Tues. before Whit Sunday, August 10, and Sept. 15, cattle.

Martock—October 9, hogs, &c.

Mells—Monday after Trinity Monday, cattle, cheese, and toys; and September 29.

Milborne-Port—June 5, & Oct. 28, cattle and toys.

Minehead—Whit Wednesday, pedlary.

Moortinch—Aug. 20, cattle.

Milverton—Easter Tuesday, July 25, October 10, horses, cattle, cheese, &c.

Montacute—May 8, leather, sheep, and cattle.

North Curry—August 1, September 3, bullocks, sheep, and toys.

North Petherton—May 1, cattle, shoes, and toys.

Nunny— November 11, cattle.

Otterford—November 28, cattle of all sorts, and linen and woollen.

Pensford—May 6, & Nov. 8, cattle, &c.

Philip's Norton—Mar. 21, 27, May 1, and Aug. 29, cattle and cloth.

Porlock—Thursday before May 12, Thurs. before Oct. 10, Thurs. before Nov. 12, cattle.

Portbury—Whit Monday, cattle and sheep.

Priddy—August 21, 22; cattle of all sorts.

Queen-Camel—June 11, & Oct. 25, cattle.

Redlinch—June 29, oxen and sheep.

Road—Monday after Aug. 29, cattle and cheese.

Ruishton—Whit Monday, bullocks and toys.

St. Decuman's—Aug. 24, and Sept. 16; horses, cattle, &c.

Shepton-Mallet—May 30, June 7, and August 8, cattle, &c.

Snowdon—Whit Thursday

Somerton—Jan. 29, Palm Tuesday, Tuesday three weeks after ditto, Tuesday six weeks, & Tuesday nine weeks after do. and Nov. 8; cattle of all sorts.

South Brent—October 10, cattle.

South Petherton—July 6, cattle.

Stroordale or Wincanton—August 5, bullocks.

Stopford—June 11, and September 28.

Stogursey—May 2, & September 12, cattle, &c.

Stogumber—May 6, and August 1, bullocks, &c.

Stoke-Under-Hambden—April 25, cattle and pedlary.

Stowey—Sep. 7, cattle and toys.

Sucklebridge—Friday before Holy Thurs. Wednesday after October 10, cattle.

Taunton—June 17, for bullocks and horses; July 7, three days, the first day bullocks and horses, the others pedlary and confectionary; if July 7 fall on a Saturday, it is kept on a Monday.

Ubley—October 4, cattle and cheese.

Watchet—Aug. 25, cattle.

Wedmore—Aug. 2, cattle and sheep.

Wellington—Thursday before Easter, and Holy Thursday, cattle and sundries.

Wellow—May 20, and October 17, cattle.

Wells—January 4, May 14, July 6, October 25, and Nov. 30; horses, cattle, and sundries.

Weston Zoyland—Sept. 9, cattle and cheese.

Whitedown—Whit Monday and Tuesday, pedlary, bullocks & horses.

Williton—Trinity Monday, pedlary, &c.

Wincanton—Easter Tues. and Sept. 29, horses, pedlary, &c.—See Stroordale.

Winsham—Whit Wednesday.

Wiveliscombe—May 12, & September 25, cattle and sundries.

Woollavington—Oct. 18, cattle.

Wooton-Courtney—Sept. 19, cattle.

Yarlington—August 26, cattle, &c.

Yeovil—June 28, cattle of all sorts, and wool; Nov. 17, cattle, &c.; if Friday, Saturday or Sunday, then held on Monday.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

The cities of Bath and Wells conjoined are Bishopricks; Bristol is the same, and gives the title of Earl to the Herveys. Bath gives the title of Marquis to the Thynne family. Bridgewater gives the title of Earl to the Egertons. Ilchester that of Earl and Baron to the family of Fox Strangeways. The Legges are Barons of Somerton. The Wellesleys take the title of Viscount from Wellington. Hastonbury gives the title of Baron to the Grenvilles. The Pettys are Marquises of Lansdown. The Ashley Coopers are Barons of Poulet; Radlinch and Stavondale confers the same title upon the Fox Strangeways; Rodney Stoke the same to the Rodneys. Hinton St. George that of Viscount and Baron to the Poulets. Burton Pynsent that of Viscount to the Pitts. Enmore Castle the title of Baron to the Percevals. Mendip the same to the family of Agar Ellis. Wellesley the same to the Wellesleys. Cricket St. Thomas, Viscount to the family of Hood. Chewton the same to the Waldegraves; and the Seymours are Dukes of Somerset.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS

For the County of Somerset, are held as follows:

The First Week after Epiphany, at Wells.
The First Week after the Close of Easter, at Wells.
The First Week after the Translation of Thomas-à-Becket, or July 7, at Bridgewater.
And the First Week after Michaelmas-Day, at Taunton.

BANKERS IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

Residence.	Firm.	On whom they Draw in London.
Bath (Bladud Bank)	Tufnell and Co.	Jones and Co.
——	Hobhouse and Co.	Ditto
——	Clement and Co.	Barnard and Co.
Bridgwater	E. Leeley and Sons	Rogers and Co.
Bristol	Harford and Co.	Smith, Payne and Co.
——	Pitts and Co.	Hoare, Barnetts.
——	Miles and Co.	Ditto
——	Worrall and Gold	Barnard and Co.
——	Ricketts and Co.	Lubbock and Co.
——	Brown and Co.	Merle, Son, and Co.
——	Ames and Co.	Pole and Co.
——	Stuckeys and Co.	Rogers and Co.
—— Bank	Savery and Co.	Ditto
—— Old Bank	Elton and Co.	Grote and Co.
—— City Bank	Haythorn and Co.	Pole and Co.
Crewkerne	Perham and Co.	Masterman and Co.
——	Sparks and Co.	Rogers and Co.
Frome	Shewell and Co.	Esdale and Co.
——	Hoopers and Co.	Fry and Co.
Taunton	Woodford and Co.	Esdale and Co.
——	Badcock	Ransom and Co.
Wells	Payne and Co.	Jones and Co.
Wellington	Fox and Sons	Masterman and Co.
Yeovil	Whitmarsh and Co.	Curtis and Co.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

THIS part of the kingdom was in ancient times inhabited by the Belgæ, a warlike people of Celtic origin, who migrated into this country from Gaul about 350 years before Christ, and soon became possessed of a very considerable tract of country, including Somersetshire, Dorsetshire, Devonshire, part of Cornwall, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex, and part of Middlesex, in all which they established colonies, into which they willingly admitted the Britons, the Aborigines of the island.

To maintain themselves in the possession of their newly-acquired country, they found it necessary to draw frequent reinforcements from Gaul; and we learn that about 250 years after their settlement in these parts, Divitiacus, King of Suessiones, or Soissons, the most powerful prince in Gaul, arrived with a considerable army, to enable the former emigrators to extend the line of their possessions. It was then that a line was drawn to define the boundaries of either people, effected by the throwing up a large and deep fosse, or dyke, called from the circumstance of its division Wansdike: which to this day exists in many places in perfect preservation, one of the greatest curiosities in antiquity. It commences at An-

dover, in Hampshire, and thence passes nearly in a strait direction to Great Bedwin, within the confines of Wilts, near which, upon its tract, have been discovered belts and instruments of war. It then crosses the great forest of Sevarnake and Marlborough Downs, where it appears in its pristine state, exceedingly deep, and flanked by a very lofty mound, after the manner of the elevated rampart of a castle, attracting by its singular appearance the attention of the curious traveller. Quitting the Downs, it passes Calston, Edinton, and Spyepark, crosses the River Avon near Bennacre; and again, after being lost in the tilled fields, meets with the same meandering river at Bath-Hampton, where it enters the north-west part of the Belgic territories. Its course is then continued over Claverton Down to Priorpark, Inglishcomb, Stanten-Prior, Publow, Norton, Long Ashton, and terminates in the Severn Sea, near the ancient port of Petershead, forming a line of upwards of eighty miles in length, in more than three parts of which it is yet visible.

About forty years after the birth of Christ the Romans arrived in Britain in considerable force, having already annihilated the *Cangi*, a posthumous clan of those Belgæ who last migrated into this country with the Suessonian King.

During the stay of the Romans in this region, they founded the cities of *Aqua Solis*, Bath, and *Iscalis* or Ivelchester, and many other towns, viz. Camalet, Hamden, Wellow, Coker, Chilcompton, Conquest, Wiveliscombe, Bath-Ford, Warley, Street, Long Ashton, Postlebury, South Petherton, Watergow, Wigborough, Yeovil, Putsham, Kilton, Stogumber, Edington, Inglishcomb, &c. Their great road was the fosse, extending in a south-west direction from Bath to Perry-street, on the borders of Devonshire. Another road ran nearly parallel to it, from the Forest of Exmoor, through Taunton, Bridgewater, and Axbridge, to Portishead on the Bristol Channel, where it intersected Wansdyke, and whence there

was a *Trajectus* to the city of *Isca Silenum*, now called Caërleon, in the county of Monmouth. A Vicinal Way extends from the fosse through Stoke-under-Hamden.

The principal Roman Camps in this county are at Camalet, Measknoll, Bowditch, Masbury, Doleberry, Worleberry, Blacker's Hill, Burwalls, Stokeleigh, Cadbury, Tedbury, Douseborough, Modbury, Godshill, Cow Castle, Trendle Castle, Turks Castle, Brompton-Bury Castle, Hawkridge Castle, Monceaux Castle, Newborough, Neroche, Standton-Bury, &c.

Under the dominion of the Saxons, who succeeded the Romans in their possession of the country, this county became a part of their kingdom of Wessex or of the West Saxons.

In the year of our Lord 878, this county, with Wilts and Hants, became the theatre of war with the Danes, who had already desolated almost every other province of Britain, and the good King Alfred was constrained to seek an asylum in the fens of Athelney, from whence, however, he soon afterwards emerged, and completely defeated the Danes in a signal battle at Edington.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

This maritime county is situated on the south-west of the kingdom, and has the Bristol city and county on the north, Wiltshire on the east, and Devonshire on the south and south-west. Its form is oblong, extending in length from north-east to south-west, about eighty miles. Its breadth from east to west is about thirty-six miles, and the circumference somewhat above 200 miles; the whole comprehending about one million acres of land.

The sea-coast is very irregular, in some places projecting into lofty and rocky promontories, and in others receding into fine bays and level shores. From Stert point northward, the coast is flat and composed of vast sand-banks repelling the inundation of the sea

which in former times covered with its waters the extensive territory called *Brent Marsh.*

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The climate, in fact, is various. Near the sea coast, winter is scarcely felt: and from Minehead and Dulverton on the west, to Milborne Port, and Wincanton on the east, the climate (Quantock Brandon, and Dunkry Hills excepted) is mild and temperate. Approaching the northern district, and ascending Poulden Hill, it becomes more cold and boisterous; and upon the summit of the Mendip hills, a person feels himself comparatively in Lapland. The altitude of Mendip hills compared with the town of Taunton, is supposed to be at least 1,100 feet; but the Vale of Taunton Dean contrasted with some of the northern districts may emphatically be called the Land of Canaan.

For fertility of soil and general produce, Somersetshire stands high in reputation. London, Bristol, Salisbury, and other parts of the kingdom, are annually supplied with fat oxen, sheep, and hogs, together with cider, cheese and butter, and many other articles in great abundance.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers in this county are the Avon, also called the West Avon, which rises in Wiltshire, and enters Somersetshire at Freshford, about four miles from Bath, whence it continues its course through Claverton, Bath Ford, Bath Hampton, Bath Week, and the City of Bath; from thence it becomes navigable, and passing Twiverton, Kilweston, Saltford, Keynsham, and through Bristol, it at length reaches the Severn Sea at Kingroad.

The original course of this river through Bristol has within these few years experienced some alteration by the improvement of the harbour of that city, which we shall more particularly notice in our description of Bristol.

The *Parret*, anciently called the Pedred, rises at

South Parret, in Dorsetshire, and enters this county at North Parret, both which villages receive their name from it. It then runs to South Petherton, and near Muchelney receives the River Ile, which rising near Chard, visits and gives name to the towns of Ilminster, Ilemoor, and the villages of Ile Abbots and Ile Brewers. Near the town of Langport, the Parret meets the Yeo or Ivel, which rises from seven springs, called the Seven Sisters, in Horethorn Hill, on the borders of Dorsetshire, whence it passes to the towns of Yeovil and Ilchester.

At Stanmore Point, near the Isle of Athelney, the Parret receives the River Tone. This river has its source in Beverton Hill, in the Parish of Claworthy, and passes between the village of Hewish Champflower, and the town of Wivelscombe to Stawley, Kittisforde, Runnington, Ninehead Bradford, and the large and populous town of Taunton, which derives from it its name. The Parret, soon after its junction with this river, receives another stream, called Carey, which springs at Castle-Cary, to which it gives name, and then runs to Cary Fitz-Payne, West Carlton, Lytes-Cary, Somerton, and Borough-bridge; hence the Parret, in a large stream, passes the parish of North Petherton, and then reaches the Port of Bridgewater, after which it falls into the sea at Start Point, where it is a mile over.

The *Ax* has its chief source in the remarkable cavern of Wokey Hole, at a few miles' distance from which it receives Chedder-water, and passing by Axbridge, Weare, Compton-Bishop, and Bleadon, falls into the sea between Brian Down and the village of Uphill.

The *Brew*, sometimes erroneously called the Brent, rises in the village of South Brewham, on the eastern side of the county, near the borders of Wilts, and gives its name to that place, to North Brewham, and the town of Brewton, whence it runs by Lydford, Bladonsbury, Glastonbury, and Meare, and crossing

the moors, at length discharges itself into the Bristol Channel at Burnham.

There are several other inconsiderable rivers and streams of water; which, however, greatly add to the beauty of the county, and the advantage of the inhabitants.

CANALS.

There are also the following canals, commencing in, or passing through, this county, viz.

The *Somersetshire Coal Canal*, which has two branches, the one commencing at Bulton, the other at Radstock, and both communicating with the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The *Dorset and Somerset Canal*, commencing near Nettlebridge, and extending through Frome to the County of Dorset.

The *Ilchester Canal*.

A canal from the Mendip Collieries passes through the town of Frome, and dividing into two branches, one joins the Kennet and Avon Canal near Bradford, and the other extends itself through Wincanton to the borders of Dorsetshire.

FISHERIES.

The principal of these are the Salmon and Herring Fisheries of Porlock, Minehead, and Watchet; which have for some years past been carried on to a considerable extent, furnishing employment and a cheap and wholesome food, to a great number of the lower classes of people, who, during the summer months are engaged in the lime-stone and culm trade.

POPULATION.

The last returns gave 52,462 inhabited houses. There were also 141,449 males, and 161,731 females, making a total population of 303,180 persons exclusive of the city of Bristol.

RENT AND SIZE OF FARMS.

These run from 60 or 70*l.* to 200*l.* per annum, and upwards; but the smallest are dairy farms, and many

instances have been known of such little farmers bringing up a large family in a very respectable way. In these cases the wife undertakes the whole management of the cows, and the husband goes to daily labour.

Rent is universally paid in money; and it is generally customary to receive the Michaelmas rent at Lady-Day, and the Lady-Day's rent at Michaelmas. No personal service is exacted.

The old farm-houses are ill-constructed, and improperly situated, but new ones are much improved in point of uniformity, regularity, and convenience.

In other parts, however, there are many splendid gentlemen's seats, ornamented with extensive plantations, and the farm-houses and cottages are mostly commodious and comfortable; but in most of the dairy farms a shameful want of attention has prevailed in respect to out-houses and sheds for their stock to retire to in winter.

In other districts the farms are from forty to six hundred pounds per annum, and are composed partly of rich grazing and dairy land, worth from thirty to forty shillings per acre; partly orchard, from two pounds to three pounds ten shillings per acre. Sheep-walks, from fifteen to twenty-five shillings per acre, and the arable from twenty shillings to twenty-five shillings per acre.

The rich pasture-land is partly grazed with heifers, and partly devoted to the dairy. Few farmers milk their own cows, but let them out to a class of people, scarcely known in other countries, called *dairy-men.* A herd of a good breed will now let for seven or eight pounds per cow; a certain portion of land is devoted to their summer keeping, and a sufficient quantity of hay is provided by the farmer for their winter sustenance.

The major part of the five hundreds of Taunton-Dean, in the South-West District, consists of customary lands of inheritance, held under the Bishop of Winchester, paying an annual rent. These custo-

mary lands pass by surrender, paying to the lord fines and heriots on alienations. There are also many singular customs within the manor, difficult to be understood, even by the tenants themselves. The descent is called that of *Borough English*, with some variations. The wife is heir to her husband; and it is no uncommon thing for a widow, on the death of her husband, having children by him, to marry again, and carry her estate into her second family, to the disinheritance of her first.

ENCLOSING AND FENCES.

The fences are quick hedges, with trees at unequal distances. Where stones may be easily got and lie in a flat bed, stone walls, without cement, are built, two feet wide at the bottom, eighteen inches at the top, and five feet high; they cost about one shilling a yard running measure. Around Dulverton, Dunster, &c., the beech hedges are not only beautiful to the eye, but besides making an excellent fence, afford an annual profit to the proprietors.

COTTAGES.

Many of these now in use are on too small a scale; few of them have more than one room above stairs. This is not only uncomfortable, but inconsistent with that decency and modesty, with the importance of which, children cannot be too early or too deeply impressed. The rent of these cottages varies from thirty shillings to fifty shillings per year, including a small portion of garden-ground.

CATTLE.

There are two sorts of sheep in this county, the one a native breed without horns, well made, and covered with a thick fleece of wool weighing in general seven or eight pounds; the other a small horned sheep called Exmoor sheep, which may be fattened on turnips. The first is a valuable sort, not much unlike the Leicester breed, their fleeces reaching even the weight of twelve pounds. The second sort are kept on Exmoor, or the adjoining hills, two or three years, merely for the annual profit of their fleeces.

OXEN.

The oxen of this county are large, well made, and beautiful animals. They are almost all red; they are yoked at three years old, and worked till they are six, when they have been sold to the graziers at prices from ten pounds to twenty-two pounds each ox.

HORSES.

Few horses are bred except upon Exmoor, &c.; the farmers are principally supplied by dealers who attend the north country fairs. Farriery has been in the hands of men equally conceited and illiterate; and these useful animals frequently die of a disease called the *doctor*.

IMPLEMENTS.

The ploughs, drags, harrows, and carts, as well as rollers and waggons, are much the same as they have been for sixty years past. Of late, indeed, the double furrow plough has been introduced, and seems to gain ground; all who have tried it acknowledge its superiority for light soils, and for ploughing barley or turnip land. There are many winnowing machines in use, but thrashing machines have been very slowly adopted, and are few in number. If any particular implement be most worthy of notice here, it is the *spade*, which is much longer and narrower than any used in other counties. Its length is seldom less than eighteen inches; its breadth about six, the back part being generally curved, to prevent adhesion to the soil.

TITHES.

With respect to these, perhaps, it may be generally said there is but little to complain of: both the clergy and the lay impropriator have been so moderate in their demands, and in general have agreed to so moderate a composition, that the progress of improvement has received but little check on that account.

LEASES.

In some districts these are held for three lives, with quit-rents and heriots; but the greatest part is held for terms of years, *viz.*,—fourteen, seven, and three

years, and some from year to year. Some gentlemen, from the best of motives, have been long in the habit of letting their estates at the old rents, notwithstanding the advance of the price in the articles of produce. Among the clauses in some leases, it is agreed to permit the lord, or his assigns, to search for mines, and to hunt and shoot on the premises.

ORCHARDS AND CIDER.

The whole of the Northern District is full of Orchards, which let from three pounds to six pounds per acre, and the fruit produced at the northern base of Mendip Hills, viz., at Langford, Burnington, Ruford, Blagdon, Ubly, Compton, Martin, and Harptry, affords a cider, strong, palatable, and highly esteemed, as a wholesome *table* liquor.

The favourite apple, both as a table and cider fruit, is the *Court of Wick Pippin*, taking its name from the spot where it was first produced. It originated from the pip or seed of the Golden Pippin, and may be considered as a beautiful variety of that fruit. In shape, colour, and flavour, it has not its superior. The tree is large, handsome, and spreading, and a very luxuriant bearer: it cannot be too strongly recommended.

There are many fine orchards in the Middle District, the land being peculiarly adapted to the growth and perfection of fruit-trees.

In the South-West District, cider is made in the highest perfection. There are many gentlemen in the neighbourhood of Taunton, who sell their best cider for five or six pounds per hogshead.

The profit of orchards is very great in abundant seasons, and their average produce sufficiently large to encourage their cultivation.

Mr. Billingsley mentions an instance of one tree in an orchard, judiciously planted, which produced four hogsheads of cider.

LOCAL PRODUCE.

In the parishes of Wrington, Blagdon, Ubly, Compton, Martin, and Harpley, *Teasels* are much culti-

vated. The head of this plant, which is composed of well-turned vegetable hooks, is used in dressing of cloth; and the manufacturers of this county and Wilts, are for the most part supplied from these parishes; large quantities are also sent (by water-conveyance from Bristol) into Yorkshire.

Woad is another valuable article of cultivation in this county; it is principally raised in the neighbourhood of Keynsham, and its quality is much esteemed.

It requires a good strong soil; it delights most in a deep fat loam, of a dark colour, which must have so much sand as to admit of easy pulverisation. As the excellency of woad consists in its size, and the succulency of its leaf, it requires careful management, as well as a rich soil. It is most commonly sown on land fresh broken up and narrow ridges. The use of this article in dyeing consists in forming the ground of the Indigo blue. The crop is generally a profitable one; it exhausts the land exceedingly, and not more than two crops must be taken successively. To this crop succeed wheat and beans.

Live Stock.—Cows.

MINERALS.

This county produces lead, copper, iron, lapis calaminaris, manganese, coal, lime-stone, paving-stone, tiling-stone, free-stone, fullers' earth, marl, and ochre. The Mendip hills have been famous for lead and lapis calaminaris. In times past many thousands a year have been paid annually to the see of Wells, for the lord's share, or one-tenth of the lead dug on the forest within the parish of Wells only. On Broadfield Down there are also veins of lead; and in the parishes of Rowborough, Shipham, and Winscomb, there are valuable mines of lapis calaminaris; sometimes this is found within a yard of the surface, but the mine is seldom worked deeper than thirty fathoms. But it is the opinion of intelligent colliers that there is no coal south of Mendip hills.

MOUNTAINS, MOORS, AND FORESTS.

The surface of the inland parts of the county is varied by lofty hills, as Quantock, Brandon, and Dundry, Mendip, Poulden, Broadfield, Leigh Down, Lansdown, Whitedown, and Blackdown. The principal Moors are, King Sedgmoor, near Bridgewater; East Sedgmoor, between Wells and Glastonbury; West Sedgmoor, between Taunton and Langport; Northmoor and Starmoor, near the Isle of Athelney; Common Moor, near Langport; Westmoor Curry and Haymoor, near North Curry, King's Moor, between Ilchester; and Somerton Ilemoor, on the river Ivel.

The most ancient forests are, Selwood, near Frome; Mendip, between Frome and the Bristol Channel; Exmoor, between the port of Watchet and the north-west part of Devon; Neroche, near Ilminster and North Petherton, now nearly cultivated near Bridgewater.

Brent Marsh, on the river Brue; Westonmoor, near Uphill; Barnwell and Smeath Moors, near Churchill; Kenn Moor, near Yatton; Nailsea Moor, north of Kenn; Clapton Moor, near Werton; many of which have been enclosed and improved within the last forty years.

HEATH, OR TURF BOGS.

On the confines of the Brue are two heath or turf bogs; one on the north side containing about 3,000, and the other on the south with about 6,000 acres. Scarcely any pasturage grows on these bogs. They are a composition of porous substances floating on water, and imbibing it like a sponge. They are observed to rise with much wet, and to sink in dry, weather. They have principally furnished fuel to the surrounding parishes; but some of them have been drained and consolidated. The peat dug from these bogs is accompanied with a substance like pitch, of a bituminous nature, which lies between the stalks of rushes and other leafy remains that are found here, and constitutes the inflammable part. It is used

as the common fuel of the county, and makes a clean and pleasant fire.

WASTES.

Among these the forest of Exmoor naturally presents itself first; it extends from north to south about nine miles; and from east to west, ten or twelve; containing about 19,000 acres. Nearly at the centre of this large tract of land is the estate called Simon's Bath, enclosed, and consisting of about two hundred acres, with a dwelling-house, licensed, and frequented as an inn; and all offices convenient for the management of the farm, and transacting the concerns of the forest. Here the forester has an annual sale for the small horses, bred on the surrounding hills: and here also during the month of May he meets with farmers from all the country round, who enter in his books the number of sheep which are depastured with him at the rate of fivepence per head. The small horses, generally upwards of four hundred, are not taken into better keeping during the whole of the severest winter. When the snow covers the forest to the depth of many feet, these hardy animals are seen in droves traversing the little valleys and sheltered parts, gathering their scanty fare from the banks of rivulets and warm springs; but the sheep are almost all driven off for the winter in the months of November, December, and January, according as the season is more or less severe. The river Barl runs adjoining this estate, but resigns its name on being joined by a small stream about two miles to the east, called the Ex, which rises in a low swampy spot about two miles north-east of Simon's Bath, and runs to the other end of the forest; joined by the Barl, it becomes a very considerable river, and in its passage to Exmouth, runs by Bampton, Tiverton, and Exeter. On the summits of these hills, and especially on the west and north, are swamps of many acres' extent. They are cut up as turf, and at the rate of eightpence or twelve-pence per thousand, paid to the tenant of the forest, and would be an inexhaustible

stock of fuel to any inhabitants settling on the better part, as well as of black peat for burning lime, working iron, smelting ore, or any manufacture where fire is generally used. As it may be expected where there is so large a tract of land without inhabitants, the roads are very bad, and in some places scarcely passable. Except a few willows and thorns by the sides of the rivulets, not a tree or a bush out of Simon's Bath estate, is to be seen on the whole forest. However, about twenty-two thousand sheep are generally summered here. Veins both of copper and iron have been discovered, that might be worked to advantage; but besides Exmoor, several hundred acres of uncultivated land have been equally regretted round Dundry, and on Quantock and Brandon Hills. The forest of Neroche also contains about eight or nine hundred acres; there is also Broadfield Down, near Wrington, and Lansdown, near Bath, with the ancient forest of Selwood, near Frome.

The marsh or fen lands are divided into two districts, namely, *Brent-marsh*, and the *Bridgewater* or *South-marsh*. Brent-marsh is that portion of land comprehended between Mendip-hills and Polden-hill on the north and south, Bridgewater-Bay on the west, and extending to Wells and Glastonbury on the east.

This marsh may also be divided into two parts, separated by a tract of elevated land, on which stand the parishes of Allerton, Mark, Blackford, Wedmore, &c. Through the northern level runs the river Axe, emptying itself into the Bristol Channel at Uphill; and through the southern the river *Brue*, emptying itself into Bridgewater-Bay near Burnham.

This part of the county, Mr. Billingsley observes, has been heretofore much neglected, being destitute of gentlemen's houses, probably on account of the stagnant waters and unwholesome air; but of late many efforts have been made to improve the soil, by draining and enclosing, under a variety of acts of parliament. The benefit resulting there-

from has been astonishing. The rhynes and ditches necessarily cut to divide the property, together with the deepening of the general outlets, discharge so much of the superfluous water, that many thousand acres, which heretofore were overflown for months together, and of course of little or no value, are becoming fine grazing and dairy lands; to the great emolument of the individual possessors, as well as the benefit of the community. The quantities thus enclosed in Brent-Marsh, within twenty years preceding Mr. Billingsley's survey, under authority of Parliament, amounted to 17,400, and 2,800 of turf-bog.

Of these seventeen thousand four hundred acres, six parts out of seven are cleared of stagnant water, and rendered highly productive: on the turf-bog but little improvement has hitherto taken place. There remain about three thousand acres to be enclosed, which (the turf-bogs excepted) will complete the division of all the moors within the Brent-Marsh district. It is not to be understood that the local drains, made under such a variety of acts, and at such different times, can have the most perfect influence on the country; particularly when it is considered that the river Axe has no barrier to the tide, which flows several miles, and choaks the lower part of it with *slime*, to such a degree, that many thousand acres, adjoining the upper part of the river, are, in consequence thereof, very much injured.

LITERATURE AND LEARNED MEN.

Roger Bacon, the philosopher, was born at Ilchester, in 1214, and died June 11, 1292. John Bond, a celebrated critic, was born in 1550, and died in 1612. He was author of notes upon Horace, Persius, and other Roman Classics. Sebastian Cabot, a celebrated navigator, was born at Bristol in 1447. The learned Doctor Cudworth, author of "The Intellectual System," was born at Aller, in 1617, and died in 1688. Samuel Daniel, poet and historian, was born in 1562, and died in 1619. Henry Fielding, author of "Tom Jones," &c. &c., was born at Sharp-

ham in 1707, and died at Lisbon in 1754. John Locke, the celebrated moral Philosopher and Metaphysician, was born at Wrington in 1632, and died in 1704. As natives, and connected with the musical history and literature of Bath, the family of the Linleys, are fully entitled to the most honourable mention. Richard Tickell, esq., was also a native of Bath. William Dimond, esq., was born in the same place, and was educated under Dr. Morgan. The Rev. Richard Warner, curate of St. James's at Bath, is a native of Lymington in Hampshire, but from his very long residence in the above city, his voluminous History of Bath and its Antiquities, Excursions, &c. &c., he has been in part naturalized.

The Philosophic and Literary Institution at Bath, was established in January 1816.

Four Newspapers are published weekly in Bath, viz., the Bath Journal, Bath and Cheltenham Gazette, Bath Chronicle, and the Bath Herald. Bath has also the advantage of a Penny Post.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Somersetshire contains forty Hundreds, seven Liberties, two Cities, seven Boroughs, twenty-nine Market-Towns, one Bishopric, three Archdeaconries, thirteen Deaneries, and four hundred and eighty-two Parishes.

The county is divided into three Archdeaconries; viz.:

BATH, wherein are two Deaneries—

Bath, ...	in which are	24	parishes
Redcliff and Bedminster,	ditto	53	

WELLS, wherein are seven Deaneries—

Axbridge, ...	in which are	36
Cary, ...	ditto	55
Frome, ...	ditto	47
Jurisdiction of Glaston, . .	ditto	20
Ilchester, ...	ditto	36
Marston, ...	ditto	28
Pawlet, ...	ditto	7

TAUNTON, wherein are four Deaneries—

Bridgewater, ...	in which are	31	parishes
Crewkerne, ...	ditto	55	
Dunster, ...	ditto	44	
Taunton, ...	ditto	46	

Total number of parishes . 482

The county is divided into two parts, Eastern and Western. The Eastern Division contains the following Hundreds and Liberties, viz.:

Hundreds—Bath Forum, Bemstone, Brewton, Brent-cum-Wrington, Catash, Chew, Chewton, Frome, Glaston, Twelve Hides, Hareclive-cum-Bedminster, Horethorne, Keynsham, Kilmersdon, Norton Ferrers, Portbury, Wellow, Wells Forum, Whitstone, and Winter Stoke.

Liberties—Hampton and Claverton, Easton and Amrill, Hinton and Norton, East Cranmore, Hillhouse, Mells and Leigh, Witham Friary.

The Western Division contains:

Hundreds—Abdick and Bulston, Andersfield, Cannington, Carhampton, Crewkerne, Curry North, Houndsborough, Berwick, and Coker; Huntspil-cum-Puriton, Kingsbury East, Kingsbury West, Martock, Milverton, Petherton North, Petherton South, Pitney, Somerton, Stone and Yeovil, Taunton and Taunton Dean, Tintinhull, Whitley, Williton-Freemanors.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

Journey from Wellington to Bristol; through Taunton, Bridgewater, Axbridge, and Wrington.

WE enter the county of Somerset at about four miles from Wellington, and pass over Black Down, a dreary mountainous district, upon which are an immense quantity of flints lying in vast heaps, upwards of sixty yards in circumference. They are called Robin Hood's Butts, and are supposed to be

placed over the graves of men who fell in the wars between the Danes and Saxons.

About two miles and a half from Wellington, is

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL,

A small village, of about twenty houses in a street near the church, eighteen on Sampford Moor, six adjoining the parish of Trull, and six others in the hamlet of Whitehall. The manor was given by William the Conqueror to Roger Arundle, who, with other Norman chiefs, assisted him at the battle of Hastings.

About a mile and a half to the left of our road, is the small village of THORN ST. MARGARET; entitled to no farther notice than being surrounded by very beautiful landscape scenery.

WELLINGTON

Is a large and ancient market-town, on the high road from Bath and Bristol to Exeter. It consists of four streets; the principal one of which is called High Street, and is nearly a mile in length, containing many good brick houses. The market is on Thursday, and is well supplied with all sorts of provisions. It has also two fairs on the days mentioned in our list; these and the market were obtained from the Crown by the Bishops of Wells, who for many centuries possessed the manor, and who also caused the town to be constituted a borough. The benefice of Wellington is a vicarage, in the deanery of Taunton. The church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a handsome Gothic structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and two small chapels. At the west end is a handsome embattled tower, with pinnacles, and a turret on the south side.

In the chapel, on the south side of the church, is a magnificent tomb, surrounded with a palisado of wood and iron, on the table of which lie the effigies of Sir John Popham and his lady. Sir John is dressed in his judge's robes, chain, and small square black cap. On the lower basement, at the head and feet, are four other smaller figures of two men and two

women, kneeling face to face. On the north side of the same basement are five boys and eight girls, dressed in black, kneeling in a row; and on the south side are nine women kneeling in the same manner. Over Sir John and his lady is a superb arched canopy, ornamented with a variety of carved work, and the whole supported by eight round columns of black marble, five feet high, with Corinthian capitals, coloured green and gilt. On the west side of the canopy is the following inscription:

"Sir John Popham, knight, Lord Chief Justice of England, and of the honourable Privie Councel to Queen Elizabeth, and after to King James, died the 10th of June, 1607, aged 76; and is here interred."

This Sir John Popham was a great patron and benefactor to the town of Wellington, and by his will left an estate to endow an hospital, situated at the west end of the town, for the maintenance of twelve poor and impotent or aged people, whereof six are to be men and six to be women, and for the education of two poor men's children.

There are about 3,000 inhabitants in this town, many of whom are employed in the manufacture of serges and coarse woollen cloths.

About two miles eastward from Wellington, is the village of West Buckland, situated on the north ridge of Blackdown Hills. The land in this parish is very good. The church, dedicated to Saint Mary, is a handsome Gothic structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, two aisles, and a tower at the west end.

Seven miles from hence is

TAUNTON,

Situated on the river Tone, which rises about six miles north-west from Wiveliscombe, becomes navigable here, and from hence runs into the Parret, between Langport and Bridgewater. The town derives its name from Thono Dunum, or the town upon the river Tone, and extends from east to west about a mile, consisting of four principal streets, which are

wide, and contain many well-built houses. The market-place is handsome and spacious, and, nearly in the centre of the town, it has a very commodious market-house, with a town-hall over it, built in 1773. There are two very large markets on Wednesday and Saturday, well supplied with all sorts of provisions. The town stands in a fertile and extensive plain, and is called by Camden one of the eyes of the county. The woollen manufacture has flourished in this town for several centuries: the first manufactory being established here in 1336. In 1780, a silk manufactory was erected.

According to the returns under the Population Act, it appears that Taunton contains 1,533 houses, and 9,272 inhabitants.

Taunton is an ancient borough by prescription, and has returned members to parliament from the year 1294, 23 Edward I. The right of election is vested in the parishioners, boiling their own pot (hence called potwallers and potwallopers) residing within the limits of the borough, not being stated paupers, nor having within a twelvemonth received any share from the funds of the respective charities. The town was incorporated by charter from King Charles I. and by another of Charles II., investing the government in a mayor, who returns the burgesses to Parliament. The corporation, besides the mayor, consists of a recorder, a justice of the peace, two aldermen, ten capital and ten inferior burgesses. The justice is always the last mayor, who with two aldermen is annually elected out of the capital burgesses.

The corporation have neither lands, houses, nor joint stock, the last charter precluding them from any such possessions.

From the many Roman coins and other antiquities, discovered in digging up the foundations of old houses, there is good reason to suppose that this place was not unknown to the Romans; in the Saxon times, it was certainly of great note. Ina, one of the West Saxon kings, as early as the year 700, built a

castle on the west side of this town for his residence, and is said to have held here the first great council of his kingdom. This castle was destroyed by his Queen Ethelburga; a new one was built on the site of the former by the bishops of Winchester, about the time of the Conquest, and afterward considerably improved and repaired by other bishops: an embattled gateway, built by Bishop Langton, between 1486 and 1492, is still standing. The manor of Taunton-Dean was in an early period connected with the see of Winchester; but it is uncertain by whose munificence this assignment was made. The town was not only the seat of the Bishop of Winchester's residence, and a great source of his wealth, but also a mart and place of trade, for then were in it sixty-four burgesses.

The mode of succession in the manor of Taunton is singular, for estates descend to a man's widow, and a younger son inherits before the elder. On every sale, or mortgage of an estate, it is surrendered into the hands of the lord by delivering of the pen; which surrender is lodged in the Exchequer, a room where all titles of the manor are deposited, and may at any time be examined. The manor originally included the town and borough; but is now distinct; when this separation took place is uncertain. The town, for the most part, now stands on fee simple lands, subject to chief rents, called Bishops' Rents.

Among the religious foundations for which this town was, in former ages, distinguished, was a priory of Black Canons, situate on the north side of the town without the east gate, built and endowed by William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, in 1127, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. This place was much improved by his successor Henry de Blois, brother to King Stephen, and by other benefactors. At the dissolution of monasteries the annual value of its lands was, according to Dugdale, 286*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

There were also four chapels, one of which was the present church of St. Mary Magdalen, then depend-

ant upon the mother church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. There were also a leper-house, and a house of White or Carmelite Friars. There likewise was six Chantries and a fraternity of the Holy Cross. In 1035, Taunton was appointed to be the see of a suffragan bishop. The first appointment of an Archdeacon of Taunton was in 1106, the 7th of Henry I. His jurisdiction extends over the parishes in Taunton, exclusively of the thirty parishes that constitute the hundred of Taunton-Dean.

The structures at present consecrated to religion are two parish churches, and five dissenting meetings or chapels. Of the parish churches, the largest and most magnificent is that of St. Mary Magdalen, situate near the centre of the town. It is also called Mardelin and Maudlin. It is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at 20*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The original appointment of it took place in 1308, under Walter Haselshaw, then Bishop of Bath and Wells; when probably the original part of the edifice was raised; for the two outer aisles, as appears from the date on the porch, were built, or perhaps one of them only, in 1508. This church is a spacious beautiful Gothic structure, with a fine lofty tower of excellent workmanship, with four stately pinnacles, thirty-two feet high, making the whole height 153 feet. The tower has thirteen handsome windows, with a variety of curious prominent ornaments, that give the whole an air of magnificence, united to an elegant lightness not to be equalled in the county, nor perhaps in the kingdom. The cherubs, lions, spinxes, and other carved work, are much defaced, and the figures that fill the niches round the tower, reported to have represented some of the primitive saints, are wholly destroyed, probably at the dissolution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. or in the civil wars during the reign of Charles I. The tower is supposed to have been erected by Henry the Seventh.

In this church there are no very ancient monuments nor inscriptions.

The other church, dedicated to St. James, is a strong, plain, ancient building, but very much inferior, in every respect, to St. Mary Magdalen. It is supposed to have been erected some time in the 13th century.

The free grammar-school is a large strong building, with a house adjoining for the master. It was founded by Fox, Bishop of Winchester, in the reign of Henry VII. whose arms are over the entrance; and was endowed, in 1553, by William Walbeck and William Pool, of Colyford, Esquires. The master is nominated by the Warden of New College in Oxford. A weekly newspaper called the Taunton Courier is printed in this town.

There are two almshouses in this town; one founded by Robert Gray, Esq., in 1635, for six poor men and a reader, and ten poor women, with an allowance of two shillings a week to each, and two shillings and sixpence to the reader. The building is 150 feet in length, having, besides the chapel and school room, seventeen separate apartments, with a small garden to each. The other almshouse was erected some time in the year 1616, and derives its name from the founder, Richard Huish, Esq., one of the family of the Huishes of Doniford, in the county of Somerset, and of Sand, in the parish of Sudford, in the county of Devon. The building, a large good house, ninety-five feet in length, is laid out into a chapel and thirteen separate rooms for thirteen poor, needy, maimed, impotent, or aged men; one of the most discreet of whom, who can write and read English, is appointed president or reader, with a pension of three shillings and four-pence per week; two shillings and eight-pence per week is allowed to each of the other twelve.

The county, or assize hall, forms part of the castle. In its ancient state its dimensions were 119½ feet by 30, and the two courts, civil and criminal, were held at each end, without any intersecting walls: but it has, within a few years past, been divided into

two distinct courts, laid out in different apartments, accessible by different doors. The castle is held under the Bishop of Winchester by John Hammet, esq., as a purchase made by his father to secure the use of the hall for the purpose of holding the assizes in it, when the ruinous state into which it had fallen, under a former tenant and possessor, threatened the removal of them. It is now invested in trustees for that purpose.

The other public buildings, in this town, are a neat theatre, a bridewell, and a county gaol, for such as are guilty of felonies, misdemeanors, or a breach of the peace; but not for debtors.

The hundred of Taunton Dean, is a large district, remarkable for its beauty and fertility; upon which Drayton, in the third song of his Polyolbion, passes this encomium:

" What ear so empty is that hath not heard the sound
Of *Taunton*'s fruitful *Deane;* not match'd by any ground."

About four miles from Taunton, we pass West Monkton, a manor anciently belonging to the Abbey of Glastonbury, upon the suppression of which it became vested in the crown, and was granted to Sir William Powlet. It has since become the property of Sir C. W. Bampfield. On the site of the old mansion-house, near the church, has been erected an elegant modern building, called Court House, the seat of M. Brickdale, esq.

Three miles from hence is North Petherton, a very inconsiderable town, consisting chiefly of one street, on the high road from Taunton to Bridgewater.

This town was anciently possessed by the Saxon kings, and was of such consequence that it never was assessed to the Danegeld, nor rated to any other subsidy.

The hundred of North Petherton is a considerable

tract of land, containing, besides the hundred town, the borough, market, and seaport town of Bridgewater, and eight other parishes.

BRIDGEWATER,

Anciently *Burgia*, *Brugie*, *Brugge Walta*, and *Burghwalter*, is situated on the banks of the River Parret, which runs from hence between the hundreds of Carmington and Huntspill, towards the Bristol Channel. In its course thither, a small island is formed, called Dunball Isle, which, in the beginning of the last century, is said to have been so made by some unknown persons making a cut of forty yards across the then isthmus in the night, without being ever discovered.

Bridgewater is a town of great antiquity, and was of material importance even before the Norman Conquest. The manor of it was given by the Conqueror to one of his followers, named, in doomsday book, Walter de Dowai.

King John made it a borough, by charter, dated at Chinon, in France, 26th June, 1200, at the instance of William de Brivere, at that time Lord of Bridgewater.

The castle was erected by this nobleman, and also an hospital for thirteen poor people, which, according to the custom of those times, had a small chantry, where mass was said, and other offices performed. He also built the quay, and began the stone bridge over the river, but did not live to see it completed. He dying without heirs, the manor was given to one Thomas Trivet, a Cornishman, who finished what the other had begun.

Soon after this it became a flourishing place, and was one of the first towns seized by the barons in the reign of Henry III. as a place of great importance. Its charters were renewed and confirmed by Edward the Second and Third: and Edward IV. renewed its privileges, settled the limits of the corporation, and, instead of a præpositus, or reeve, substituted a mayor and two bailiffs for the government of the town.

There was anciently a very large castle at Bridgewater, some small parts of which still remain on the west side of the quay: it was built about the year 1,200, and was finally destroyed during the civil wars in 1645.

When the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth landed in the West of England, to oppose his uncle James II., he was proclaimed king at Bridgewater, and lodged some time in the castle. The royal army, having approached as far as Weston, about three miles from Bridgewater, encamped on a moor, having a ditch in their front. The duke, who knew his men were not regularly disciplined, thought to make up that disadvantage by stratagem; for which purpose he marched out during the night, and was near the king's army before he was discovered. The battle commenced as soon as it was light in the morning; but Monmouth's horse, under the command of Lord Gray, fled at the first fire, that nobleman, who was a papist, having betrayed the duke. The foot, who were chiefly composed of countrymen in Somersetshire, fought much better than could have been expected from men unacquainted with military discipline; but being overpowered by the fire from the artillery, they fled in great confusion, when the king's army pursuing them, above 1,000 were killed, and 1,500 taken prisoners. Such of the wounded as escaped, fled to Bridgewater, but no person daring to give them any assistance, great numbers perished in the streets, and most of the survivors were hanged by order of Judge Jefferies and Colonel Kirk. The unfortunate duke was afterwards discovered in a field near Ringwood, in Hampshire, from whence being brought to London, he was soon after beheaded.

Bridgewater is at present a large, populous, and flourishing town, commodiously situated in a woody flat country, with some rich moors to the north and east of the banks of the river Parret. It is one of the most considerable in the county, being not only a place of great merchandise, but also a great thorough-

fare, so that it has many good inns for travellers. There is only one church in the town, which is a handsome and spacious structure, and the spire is the most lofty of any in this part of the kingdom. There is also a large elegant meeting-house for the use of protestant dissenters. Near the church is a free school, a very handsome edifice, built of free stone.

The corporation consists of twenty-four capital burgesses, including a mayor and two aldermen. The borough had also a recorder, who with the mayor and aldermen, are empowered to hold four sessions every year, for determining all crimes and misdemeanors, under capital offences, committed within their jurisdiction. They also hold a court of record every Monday, which has cognizance of all debts, of whatever amount, and of every other plea. The rules and practice are those of the court of common-pleas. The authority of the magistrate extends through the whole parish, who, together with the rest of the corporation, are conservators of the River Parret.

Bridgewater sends two members to parliament. The right of voting is vested in the inhabitants paying scot and lot. It is a vicarage, with Chelton, annexed, in the presentation of the Crown, and of small value, the corporation receiving the great tithes.

The corporation revenues, which consist of the manor of the borough, the great and small tithes, the manor of East-Stour, in Dorsetshire, &c., are valued at 5,000*l.* per annum. Its freemen are free of all the ports of England and Ireland, except London and Dublin; and the sheriff of the county cannot send any process into the borough, it having been made a distinct county by Henry VIII. It has a spacious hall, and a high cross, with a cistern over it, to which water is conveyed by an engine from a neighbouring brook, and carried from thence to most of the streets.

This town was regularly fortified in the civil wars, and sustained more than one siege. The situation of it renders it easy to be fortified, the river and haven forming the greater part of the circumference. The tide rises here, at high water, near six fathoms, and sometimes flows in with such impetuosity, that it comes two fathoms deep at a time; and when it does so unawares, it often occasions great damage to the ships, driving them foul of each other, and frequently oversetting them. This sudden rage of the tide is called the Boar, and is frequent in all the rivers of the Channel, especially in the Severn. It is also known in the North, particularly in the Trent, and the Ouse, at their entrance into the Humber, at Bristol, and in several other places.

The manufactures of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, &c., for the internal parts of Devon and Cornwall, are brought to this port in large troughs, and from hence conveyed in waggons. The duty paid at the custom-house on import, has amounted to about 2,500*l.* a year.

About forty vessels, from thirty to one hundred tons, are employed in bringing coals from Wales to this place, and from hence the neighbourhood is supplied at a moderate rate. The river is navigable for large barges from Taunton to Langport. About six miles south of the town, the Rivers Tone and Parret meet.

The inhabitants carry on a considerable trade to Wales, Ireland, Newfoundland, Virginia, the West Indies, and the Mediterranean.

According to the returns under the act, Bridgewater contains 857 houses, and 4,911 inhabitants.

The famous Admiral Robert Blake was a native of this place. He was born in 1599; in 1651 he burnt and destroyed the whole fleet of Prince Rupert, two ships only excepted. In 1653, he gained a complete Victory over the Dutch fleet, consisting of one hundred and twenty men-of-war, commanded by Van

Tromp. He performed many other glorious actions recorded in history, and died August 17, 1657, aged fifty-eight.

About five miles from Bridgewater we pass the village of PAWLET, situated in a fine rich grazing country; and five miles is SOUTH BRENT, another small village, also surrounded by fine rich marsh land. The church is a small decent building, consisting of a nave, chancel, north aisle and vestry-room, and at the west end there is a well-built embattled tower eighty feet high. "At the ends of some of the old benches there is a variety of grotesque carvings. On the first is a fox hanged by geese, with two young ones yelping at the bottom; next, a monkey at prayers, with an owl perched on a branch over his head, below which is another monkey in an erect posture, holding a halberd. On the next is a fox vested in canonicals with a crosier in his hand and a mitre on his head, above is a young fox chained, with a bag of money in his right paw. On each side are geese, cranes, and other fowls chattering at him; and below is a young fox turning a boar on a spit, and on the right another monkey with a pair of bellows in his hands puffing the fire."

There was formerly an organ in this church.

A mile and a half from hence is EAST BRENT, a very inconsiderable village, upon the great road from Bristol to Bridgewater. This neighbourhood is supposed to have suffered much injury from the Danes; and to have been the theatre of military transactions long before the period of their invasion. At a small distance southward from the church of East Brent, stands a singular eminence, of a conical form, called Brent Knoll. On the top of this hill, which is nearly one thousand feet above the level of the sea, and commands a most extensive prospect of the Channel, coast of Wales, and the inland country, there is a large double irregular entrenchment, in which brass and silver coins of the Roman empire have been frequently found; and in digging at its base spears-

heads, fibula, urns, and other remains, have been thrown up.

The West Saxons, during their engagements with the Mercian powers, seem to have made use of this important fortress: and King Alfred, in after-times, is supposed to have defended himself here against the Danes. A piece of ground southward of the hill preserves the memory of some signal engagement in the name of *Battle-borough.*

East Brent church is a very handsome edifice, one hundred and fourteen feet in length, and fifty feet in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, all covered with lead. At the west end is an embattled tower, eighty feet high, whereon is an elegant spire rising to the height of sixty feet. In the church windows there has been some good painted glass; in one of them is the salutation, the nativity of our Saviour, and the wise men offering their presents, &c.; in others various representations of passages from the New Testament.

Four miles from Axbridge we pass through Reddesham, a very small town, consisting of little more than a dozen houses, and remarkable only for the fine land which surrounds it, chiefly pasture, producing the finest cheese in the kingdom.

AXBRIDGE

Is an ancient borough and market town, situated in a fine rich champaign country, under the south-west ridge of the Mendip Hills, seventeen miles from Bristol. The river Ax divides the parish from Over Weare, and running under a wooden bridge, supported by stone piers on the foundation of a more ancient fabrick, gives this place its appellation. The town chiefly consists of one principal street, upwards of half a mile in length. There is a good market for corn at this place, and a great number of the poor are employed in knitting hose.

Axbridge was anciently a borough by prescription, and sent members to Parliament as early as the 28d Edward I., and continued to do so until the

reign of Edward III., when it was excused upon the petition of the inhabitants.

The church stands on an eminence on the east side of the market-place, and is a handsome structure, in the form of a cross, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south transept, north and south side aisles, a chapel on each side of the chancel, and a lofty well-built tower on the west end.

The present members of the corporation, under a charter granted by James I. are a mayor, recorder, town-clerk, ten aldermen, and twenty-two burgesses.

About three miles from Axbridge, is the parish of SHIPHAM, bounded on the north-east and south by the Mendip Hills; towards the west and north-west there is a beautiful prospect over Brian Down, the Channel, the Holmes Wall, and Clevedon Hills, the coast of South Wales, and the mountains near Abergavenny in Monmouthshire: there are a great number of mines of the lapis-calaminaris in this parish, and a fair for cattle, sheep and pigs, in November.

The adjoining parish of ROWBARROW, is beautifully situated in a cove, on the top of Mendip, from whence there is a fine prospect of the Channel, from Uphill to Portishead Point. On the north side of the village, a very deep winding dell sinks almost perpendicularly from the hill, and its sides near the bottom are shagged with coppice woods, and intermingled with rocks. In this valley are a few cottages; and a stream of water springing from the hills. The inhabitants of this village are chiefly miners.

The village of WESTON-SUPRA-MARE, situated in the valley on the coast below Uphill, has, within these few years, become a fashionable place of resort for the Bristolians, for the purpose of sea-bathing.

About six miles from Axbridge, pleasantly situated in a fertile country, is

WRINGTON,

distant twelve miles north from Wells, and eleven south from Bristol. The church is a handsome struc-

ture, consisting of a nave, chancel, side aisles, and a porch embattled on the top, and ornamented with a great number of pinnacles. At the west end is one of the most beautiful towers in the kingdom. It is one hundred and forty feet high to the top of the battlements, which are ornamented with four corner turrets, and sixteen elegant Gothic pinnacles, fifteen feet in height.

"Northward of the church, and adjoining the church-yard, is an old thatched house, little better than a cottage, which had the honour of being the birth-place of that celebrated philosopher John Locke, whose mother, travelling in these parts, was here taken in labour, and constrained to take up her residence."

The residue of the road to Bristol affords but little to attract the traveller's notice. The Hundred of Portbury, through which we pass, lies at the very northernmost extremity of the county, having the sea on the west and north-west, the River Avon on the east and north-east, and on the south a long and lofty ridge of mountains, extending from the entrenchments of Burwalls on the Avon, over-against the village of Clifton, to Clevendon Flats, opposite the coast of Cardiff, in South Wales. The latter town of Portbury, which gives the hundred its name, is situated in the valley northward from that tract of mountain we have just now spoken of, and between it and the harbour of Kingroad, on the Bristol Channel. It was anciently a town of the Romans, as appears from the indubitable evidence of the great quantity of coins of the lower empire, and foundations of old buildings, discovered here. North-west of Portbury, is Portishead, pleasantly situated on the south side of a high ridge of hills, finely wooded, which rise immediately from the skirts of the Channel, defending the town from the strong westerly winds. The shore is very rocky, and in some places nearly sixty feet in perpendicular height. The rocks are composed of a grit-stone, in

which is some gypsum: and on them grow vast quantities of the kelp weed. Flat-fish and shrimps are caught on the beach.

Upon the brow of a hill, overlooking the village of Tickenham, on the western extremity of this hundred, is a Roman encampment, called Chadbury Castle, containing about an acre of ground, and nearly of an oval form, fortified by a double rampart, 12 feet high, and composed of loose limestone, the produce of the spot. At the extremity of the hill, westward from Tickenham, is the village of CLEVEDON. The rocks here run from the shore with prodigious grandeur, and to a great height. The ride to this village, over the hill from Leigh Down, is justly esteemed the finest in the county.

On the left of our road, about three miles from Bristol, is the parish of LONG ASHTON, pleasantly situated in a richly wooded vale; a fine gravel road is cut entirely through the village, and indeed the whole parish, in many places forming a terrace, overlooking a most pleasing succession of fine meads and pastures, intermingled with wood, and having in view part of the city of Bristol, Clifton, Dundry, and the hills and scattered villages on the other side of the Avon.

The eastern point of Ashton-hill overlooks the Avon and the Hot-Wells, which lie below, at an immense depth. This point is rudely interspersed with wood and forest shrubs, springing from amidst the crags, which are in some places almost, and in others quite perpendicular, having here and there a cavern, hollowed by the hand of Nature, and exhibiting a very romantic and magnificently wild appearance. On the verge of these cliffs are two very ancient Roman encampments, known by the name of *Burwalls* and *Stoke Leigh*. The former is triangular, conforming to the shape of the cliff, and consists of three ramparts, placed on the hill-side, westward, the parts next the river being defended by the precipice. The inner rampart is 18 feet high, and is composed of a strong cemented mass of lime-stone rubbish, so hard as

scarcely to be broken by any tool. *Stoke Leigh* stands northward from Burwalls, being divided from it by a very deep narrow dell, clothed on the north side with wood. It is of an oval form, and consists of two ramparts, the inmost of which is very thick and strong.

In many of the gardens in this parish, Roman coins have been dug up.

The chief employment of the common people in the parish of Long Ashton is gardening; and great quantities of all sorts of vegetables and fruits (particularly strawberries), are raised here for Bristol market and the Hot-Wells, which are also supplied with milk and butter from the dairies.

Before we reach Bristol, we pass through the parish of BEDMINSTER, which in ancient times consisted of only a few cottages, but is now so populous, and crowded with houses, as to form a very considerable suburb to the city of Bristol, to which it joins by a continued street from Redcliff-hill.

Bedminster was part of the possessions of the Saxon kings, and was not alienated from the crown until after the Norman Conquest.

The church stands a little southward from the village, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. At the west end is a large square tower, with open balustrades at the top. On this tower there was formerly a steeple, which was thrown down in 1568. There are several modern monuments and inscriptions in this church: the only ancient one is on a flat stone in the chancel, for the family of Grinfield, whereon it is said that they settled in this parish in the second year of Edward I.

We now enter that part of the city of Bristol, situated on the western side of the Avon, in the county of Somerset.

BRISTOL.

On several accounts the city of Bristol has claims of a superior kind on the attention of the historian, and the topographer. Though not probably the most ancient, it is certainly one of the most important cities

in the empire, and was long reckoned second only to the metropolis in a commercial point of view. The singularity of its situation on the borders of two extensive counties, in fact, standing both in Somersetshire and Gloucestershire, yet strictly belonging to neither, seated on seven hills, surrounded with some of the most delightful scenery the country can boast, being the great emporium of trade for the western counties, and the share it has had in all the great events of our history, are circumstances that have often excited the interest and roused the curiosity of the annalist and tourist.

It has been said by some that Bristol was founded by Brennus, the supposed first king of the Britons, about three hundred and eighty years before Christ; a notion which has derived some support from the appearance of two statues, said to be those of Brennus, and his brother Belinus, on the south side of St. John's Gate. Gildas, a British monk of the sixth century, certainly mentions Brito, or Bristol, in his list of fortified and eminent British cities, in the year 430, when the Romans abandoned our island. Nennius, in his catalogue annexed to his History of Britain, which comes down to the eighth century, also enumerates *Caer-Brito*, the ancient British name for this place, among the twenty-eight famous cities of Gildas. These testimonies, however, have reference only to the ancient city of the Britons.

At present, however, for extent, population, and trade, Bristol is the most considerable place in the West of England. In these respects it takes place of all other cities in England, London excepted. The present name is thought by some to be derived from its Saxon appellation, Bright-stow; that is, "a place of famous beauty." The ancient Britons called this place "Caer Oder Nante Badon;" which by some authors is supposed to signify "the city of Oder, in the Valley of Badon:" by Mr. Dyer, in a late publication, "The Great Water, or Water Border City, in the Valley of Bath."

Bristol is situated on both sides of the River Avon; was made an independent county by King Edward III. in consequence of which it is not included in any of the circuits, but holds its own assizes and sessions.

Prior to the Norman Conquest, the ancient history of Bristol is very obscure; nor have we any authentic particulars, except that one Hardinge, a natural son of the then king of Denmark, was governor of Brightstow, in the reign of Edward the Confessor; and that it was from this place that Harold sailed, in 1063, when he went to put a stop to the inroads made by the Welch on the borders of the kingdom.

At the death of the Conqueror, when Geoffry, Bishop of Constance, with his nephew, Robert Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, rebelled against William Rufus, they made this city their head-quarters, and the Castle became the depôt of all the plunder they collected in the country around. According to Camden, the Castle was founded by Robert Earl of Gloucester, who also added to it a magnificent palace and tower, and encompassed the whole with walls.

William of Worcester, who surveyed this castle, about the 14th century, informs us, that it was 540 feet long, 300 feet broad, and stood on an area of three acres of ground. The castle was annexed to the city by a charter of King Charles I. in 1629, and soon after purchased by the mayor and burgesses.

In the reign of king Stephen, when the Empress Maud landed in England, and raised an army against that monarch, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, built a castle here, and fortified it for that Princess. In the course of the wars, being closely besieged, she took shelter here, but her stay was short; for Stephen following her with a considerable army, she fled to Gloucester, and afterwards to several other places, till, having collected a powerful army, she gave the command to the Earl of Gloucester, who, after an obstinate resistance, took Stephen prisoner, at the castle of Lincoln, and conveyed him to Bristol, where

he was confined upwards of nine months in the Castle.

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles I. the castle was alternately in the hands of the King and Parliament; but it was at length totally demolished by Cromwell, and several handsome streets have been made on the spot where it stood; one of which, to perpetuate its remembrance, is called Castle-street.

The ground-plot of this city is nearly circular. It is divided into two parts by the river Avon, over which there is a handsome stone-bridge. The part on the Gloucestershire side is four miles and a half in circumference, and that on the Somersetshire, two miles and a half; so that the whole circumference of the city is seven miles.

In ancient times it was enclosed by walls. The gates of Bristol, which were fourteen or sixteen in number are mostly demolished; amongst which was *Newgate*, now the city gaol for felons and debtors. This prison has been enlarged and improved by act of parliament: it has a handsome chapel, and an ordinary to officiate in it. *Temple-gate*, a modern and very noble triumphal arch of stone, with two posterns, remains; as do also *Bridewell-gates*, which include a large well-built prison on each side of the way, the city prison for commitment and correction. *St. John's-gate* is remarkable for two ancient statues of the Kings Belinus and Brennus, the fabulous founders of the city, and for having upon it the steeple of the adjacent church, and on that a stone spire; the whole structure is 150 feet from the ground. A part of the city wall, nearly half a mile in length, remains on the Somersetshire side.

The more ancient streets of Bristol are in general narrow, and the greater part of the houses, like those in London before the year 1666, are built with the upper stories projecting beyond the lower. They are also crowded close together, and many of them five or six stories high. The streets formed of late years

are spacious, well paved, and contain very handsome buildings; and every opportunity of widening the streets is taken, by pulling down old houses, and erecting such as are both ornamental and convenient in their place.

Bristol has been a bishopric ever since the general dissolution of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII., the present cathedral having been formerly the church of the abbey of St. Augustine. It was one of the mitred abbeys, its head sitting in parliament as a spiritual lord, and exercising all other episcopal offices.

The Cathedral, or *College*, as it is called by the inhabitants, was first built and endowed by Lord Fitzharding, towards the latter end of the reign of King Stephen, and at the dissolution its revenues were applied for the maintenance of a bishop, dean, six prebendaries, a chancellor, vicar, choristers, and other officers.

It is a venerable Gothic structure, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and situated at a place called College-green. The front is adorned with the statues of several of our kings. Though not large, it has many beauties of Gothic architecture within, and a noble organ. It is adorned with paintings, painted windows, and several elegant monuments, ancient and modern. Behind the cathedral is a cloister, in which are the entrances to the library and bishop's palace.

There remains, a little to the west of the church, a most beautiful Gothic gateway, which has four statues on each side the gatehouse, of King Henry, &c. Over the gate, on the north side, is the following ancient inscription, entire, and perfectly legible:

Rex *Henricus* secundus, & Dominus *Robertus*, filius, *Hardingi*, filii Regis *Daciæ*, hujus monasterii, primi fundatores extiterunt.

Exclusive of the cathedral, here are eighteen parish churches, and several very handsome meeting-houses for protestant dissenters.

Among the parish churches, that which claims pre-eminence of the rest, is St. Mary Redcliff, which is situated without the walls, and was built in the reign of Henry VI. by William Canyngs, one of the aldermen of the city. It is a magnificent structure of Gothic architecture, and the workmanship is so beautiful, the roof so ingeniously vaulted with stone, and the tower so lofty, that it may justly be esteemed one of the finest parish churches in the kingdom. It stands on the brow of a hill, and has a handsome ascent to it by stone steps.

The original foundation of this edifice was laid by Simon de Burton, in the year 1294, it was afterwards, however, taken down and rebuilt, on the same site, by William Canyngs, and completed by his grandson, of the same name, who was an eminent merchant of Bristol, of which city he was five times mayor.

He died the 7th of November, 1474, and was buried in the south end of the cross aisle of this church, where are two monuments erected to his memory.—On one side of the church he is represented in the habit of a magistrate, to imply his having served in the city as mayor; and on the other he appears in ecclesiastical robes, having in the latter part of his life entered into holy orders. One of the inscriptions is in Latin, the other in English. Here is also a monument erected to the memory of Sir William Penn, Knt. vice-admiral of England, and father of the great William Penn, one of the heads of the people called Quakers, who was a native of Bristol.

Upon the tower there was formerly a spire of great height, which, in the year 1396, was partly thrown down by lightning, and never rebuilt.

The ground plan of the church forms a cross. It consists of a middle and two side aisles. Near the centre of the middle aisle, on the south side, opposite the pulpit, is erected a throne, on which the mayor and corporation are seated when they, in their robes of office, go in procession to this church to hear divine service, once every year, on Whit-Sunday, on

which day an ancient custom is continued of strewing the pavement of the church with rushes. The pillars which support the roof are very lofty, and beautifully wrought into the most delicate mouldings. The roof is all of stone, abounding in ornaments and carved work. The altar is very elegant, and richly decorated. Over it are three capital paintings, by Hogarth. The largest and middle picture represents Christ's Ascension; the one on the left-hand is the High Priest with others sealing the tomb: and the other, on the right, the Women coming to look for the body of Christ, and the Angel who tells them "He is not here, but risen." In the centre compartment of the altar, is a picture of our Saviour restoring to life the daughter of Jairus, painted by Mr. Fresham, of the Royal Academy, at the request of his uncle, Sir Clifton Wintringham, Bart., one of his majesty's physicians, who presented it to this church.

It was in a room over the porch, at the north entrance of the church, that the celebrated CHATTERTON asserted he had found the poetical manuscripts of Thomas Rowley and others, written in the 15th century, which he transcribed and published at different periods. These beautiful poems are now, by the best judges, determined to have been the productions of Chatterton himself, and as such, the most extraordinary efforts of early poetical genius known, considering the circumstances, situation, and youth of the author.

Thomas Chatterton was born at Bristol, the 20th of November, 1752; he was a posthumous child. His father was master of the charity school in Pill-street. In 1760, he was admitted into Colston's Blue-coat School, which he left on the 1st of August, 1767, and was immediately taken into the office of an attorney, whose office-hours were from seven in the morning till eight in the evening. He continued in this situation till April 1770, when he went to London, where, a victim of neglect and extreme distress, he destroyed himself on the 21st of August following.

All Saints' church is a beautiful structure, the steeple of which, though not so large, nearly resembles that of St. Mary-le-bow, in Cheapside, London.

The church of St. Mark, opposite the cathedral, was anciently a collegiate church, founded by the Gaunts, whose tombs are to be seen in the aisle. It is the mayor's chapel, has a fine organ, and a curious Gothic window next the street.

St. Nicholas church, at the bridge, is one of the finest modern rooms that can be seen, of 100 feet long, 55 broad, and without a pillar. In its tower is a deep and musical peal of eight bells, which are rung every Thursday evening at eight o'clock. On the tower is a beautiful spire of considerable height.

Christ church is remarkable for its lofty spire, and musical peal of ten bells.

St. Stephen's, in Clare-street, has a curious Gothic tower and pinnacles, 150 feet high; its furniture, pews, pulpit, altar-piece, and even doors, are all of mahogany.

St. Michael's is entitled to notice for its elegant simplicity.

There is a very fine organ at St. Thomas's church, worthy of notice.

In Temple-street is a church, remarkable for its tower leaning on one side, which is attributed to a defect in the original construction, not observed by the architect. When the bells are rung it moves, as Camden expresses it, *huc et illuc*, here and there.

The parishes of St. Paul and St. James having formerly but one church, which was insufficient for the accommodation of the inhabitants, an act of parliament was obtained in 1751, empowering trustees to divide the two parishes and erect a new church. The money for defraying the expenses of this building was raised by voluntary subscription; their Bishop, the learned Rev. Dr. Joseph Butler, contributing 400*l.* for that purpose.

The first stone of this edifice was laid with great ceremony on the 3d of March, 1752, and under it was

placed several pieces of his late majesty's coin. On the upper part of the stone was a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:—

"This church,
Sacred to the All-mighty and All-gracious God,
and the salvation of frail sinners, was
erected by the public piety.
Yet,
Far be it from us to conceal,
among obscure names,
The reverend Father in God,
JOSEPH BUTLER,
Late Bishop of Bristol,
who
Consecrated to this pious use
Four hundred pounds."

This church is a very neat and handsome structure, being elegantly finished, both within and without; but it does not at present contain any thing that merits particular notice, except having a very handsome and good organ.

In the city of Bristol are 17 parishes, 18 churches, and five chapels; and in the suburbs two churches and one chapel of the established religion, in all 26; and nearly as many meeting-houses and chapels for dissenters.

On viewing the churches in Bristol, we are naturally led to make one observation, which particularly redounds to the honour of the citizens; we mean the neatness observed in these sacred structures, and the great care that is taken in preserving the monuments, and the inscriptions on them, to the memory of the dead.

The most distinguished buildings, exclusive of the churches, are the following:—

Towards the lower end of Broad-street is the Guild-hall, where the business of the corporation is transacted. It is a very handsome and convenient edifice; and here the sessions are held for the city and county. There are rooms also for the sheriff's court, and a

hall called St. George's Chapel, in which the city officers are annually appointed, and the county members chosen.

The whole building is of free-stone: having the front adorned with a statue of Charles II., from whom the city received its last charter of incorporation.

At the upper end of Broad-street, and the corner of Corn-street, is another handsome building, called the Council-house, where the mayor, or in his absence, one of the aldermen, sits every day (Sundays excepted) to transact business, attended by the town-clerk, and other proper officers. The apartments are ornamented with some fine portraits of royal and other august and honourable personages.

The exchange is an extensive, handsome, and convenient building, well adapted to all the purposes of commerce. The act for building it was obtained in 1733, after which a subscription was set on foot, and the foundation laid on the 19th of March, 1741. In the first stone was a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:—

"In the reign of George II., the pious, prosperous, august vindicator of Liberty and Commerce, both at home and abroad, Henry Combe, Mayor, A. D. 1741, laid the first stone of this edifice, erected by the vote of the citizens, and at the public expense."

This beautiful edifice, which was opened on the 23d of September, 1743, is esteemed the most complete of its kind in Europe. Its front is 110 feet, depth 148, and it is capable of containing 1,440 persons. The place for the merchants is a peristyle of the Corinthian order, 80 feet in breadth, and 90 in length. The whole building, throughout, is of stone. The places between the capitals of the columns and pilasters, in the front, are filled with festoons, which represent Great Britain and the four quarters of the world, with the chief products and manufactures of every country. Before the Exchange, and on the

Tolzey, are some of the old brass pillars, used for transacting business before the exchange was built.

The Post-office is an elegant and convenient stone structure, at the west of the Exchange. Its annual revenue is upwards of 10,000*l.*

The Assembly-room, in Princes-street, for balls and concerts, is about 90 feet long, and a lofty highly-finished receptacle. It is of stone; has a magnificent front, and a rustic basement, supporting double pillars of the Corinthian order, crowned by an open pediment, under which is this inscription: "Curas Cithara tollit." It is conducted by a master of the ceremonies, distinct from the Hot-Wells.

The Merchants'-hall, in the same street, is a capacious structure of stone, enclosed by a grand iron palisade, and with a curious front. It consists of a suite of magnificent rooms, and has one of the first halls in England.

The Coopers'-hall, in King-street, has a very superb front, with four noble columns of the Corinthian order, an attic story, and lofty pediment, well deserving the attention of a stranger.

Merchant Taylor's-hall, in Broad-street, is a free-stone building, nearly 70 feet long, and of proportionable breadth.

The Theatre in King-street, is a perfect model of elegance and convenience: the internal part round the pit is semicircular; and Bristol had the honour of leading this fashion in England.—The carving, gildings, &c., which are very simple and correct, have a very good effect. Plays are acted in the summer season only, by the King's servants from both the London houses.

There are many genteel houses of entertainment in every part of the city, with neat walks and gardens, and very good accommodations. Convenience and elegance are now attended to at Bristol, and every reasonable gratification which can be desired is here afforded.

The City Library, in King-street, is a handsome

stone building, with literary emblems in the front. It contains a copious and excellent collection of the best ancient and modern authors, and is continually augmenting, by a great number of annual subscribers.

The Quay is upwards of a mile in extent or circuit, reaching from St. Giles's-bridge down to the mouth of the Frome, and up the old Avon to Bristol-bridge; being one uninterrupted spacious wharf of hewn stone, having sufficient depth of water before it for ships of the greatest burthen, and fully laden, to come close to the walls and discharge their cargoes. It has different names, as the Tontine-quay, Broad-quay, the Gibb, Mud-dock, the Grove, and the Back. At this quay a considerable number of ships lie at all times of the year, which make a pleasing appearance; and the large quantities of different merchandise seen on the wharfs, prove the very great trade of the port of Bristol.

On the western side of the Mud-dock is the great crane, erected on fourteen pillars, cased with iron, by the ingenious Mr. Padmore; a curious piece of mechanism, and worthy of observation. Cranes of the same internal construction are erected in proper situations for loading and unloading, which are all numbered, for the more readily finding the subjacent vessels.

The merchants of Bristol had for many years contemplated the formation of the river Avon into a floating harbour, where the vessels might constantly ride, without being liable to sustain any damage from the revolution of the tides, and the resting in low water in hard and disadvantageous places: in 1803, they applied to Parliament for liberty to turn the course of the Avon from above the Hot-Wells, through the meadow land on the Somersetshire side, thence again to join its original direction a little below Totterdown. This plan, evidently formed with much spirit, for the public utility, met with warm discussions from the citizens, according as they were swayed by interest, persuaded of its benefit, or prejudiced against it. How-

ever, the Company of Merchants, in its favour, having procured parliamentary sanction to prosecute their measures, which they sanguinely asserted would improve the port and harbour to a very great and conspicuous degree, the new river was begun in 1804, and about five years afterwards it was finished, so as to admit a passage for shipping.

The Avon and Frome, being formed into large docks of water, considerably facilitate trade, as vessels can now proceed on their voyages when the tides are at neap, which otherwise necessarily occasioned delay; and by the same means ships of great burthen, instead of remaining at Kingroad until the tides rise high enough to admit them, are received into an immense basin, called Cumberland Basin, near the Hot-Wells; and here they lie safely, and unload with ease. Its convenience for trade is every way apparent.

As ships are obliged to pass through St. Giles's-bridge, the magistrates have appointed officers to draw it up on their approach, who are paid from the city chamber.

Queen's-square is a very handsome place, being surrounded with good buildings, inhabited by gentry and merchants. The houses are fronted partly with brick, and partly with stone, and the square is reckoned larger than any in London, Lincoln's Inn-fields excepted. On the north side is the Custom-house, and the area is laid out in grass plats and gravel walks, with a double row of trees all round. In the centre is a curious equestrian statue of King William, in copper, executed by the famous Rysbrack.

Among the numerous charitable institutions in this city, we shall notice the following, as being the most remarkable:

Queen Elizabeth's hospital, which, before the dissolution of monasteries, was a collegiate church, founded by Sir Henry Gaunt, but afterwards converted into an hospital by J. Carre, a wealthy citizen, who is supposed to have lived in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and to have given her name to this

hospital. In the year 1706 it was rebuilt, and farther endowed with contributions, and is now large enough for one hundred boys: they are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, navigation, &c.; and when qualified to go out, they are at liberty to choose a master, either for land or sea service, and have eight guineas given with them as an apprentice fee. Six of these boys, who are upon Mr. Colston's establishment, have ten pounds given with each.

The mayor and aldermen are the visitors of this seminary, and by them the treasurer is chosen. The boys maintained by this charity are dressed nearly in the same manner as those of Christ's hospital in London.

On St. Austin's Back, is Colston's-hospital, founded by Edward Colston, Esq. for one hundred boys, who are taught and maintained in this hospital seven years; at the expiration of which they are put out apprentices in the same manner as those in Queen Elizabeth's hospital.

The master is allowed 1,000*l.* a year for the maintenance of these boys. The founder purchased lands in several parts of Somersetshire, and settled the revenues on this foundation. The Merchants' Company are the receivers of these rents, and also inspectors of the charity. Eighty of these boys must be the sons of freemen of Bristol, but the other twenty are from different parts of the county. They are dressed like the boys in Queen Elizabeth's-hospital, except their caps, which are black; and the lining of their blue coats is of an orange colour, whereas that of the former is white.

On St. Michael's-hill is another hospital, founded by the aforesaid Edward Colston, Esq. The front and sides of the building are faced with free-stone, and contain twenty-four apartments, for twelve men and twelve women, who have each an allowance of three shillings a week, and twenty-four sacks of coals a year; the elder brother has six shillings a week; and the governor has an apartment and garden, with a

handsome allowance. There is a neat chapel belonging to the hospital, where prayers are read twice a day, except when service is performed at St. Michael's church, and every pensioner is obliged to attend.—This building cost the donor 25,000*l.*

In Temple-street is a large school and dwelling-house, built and endowed by the before-mentioned Mr. Colston, who purchased the ground for it in 1696. Here forty boys are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and clothed in short grey habits, with caps and bands; but their parents find them necessaries. The master's salary is paid out of the vestry of the parish, by persons who have the entire management of the school.

St. Peter's-hospital, which was opened on the 29th of June, 1788, is an infirmary for the sick and distressed poor of the city, established on the same plan as those of London and Westminster. This useful charity has been supported by very liberal contributions. One of its most distinguished benefactors was the late John Elbridge, esq., one of the comptrollers of the customs here; who, besides several other charitable donations, bequeathed 5,000*l.* to this infirmary. The same gentleman likewise built and endowed a charity-school, on St. Michael's-hill, for educating and clothing a number of girls, the children of poor parents.

The Bristol infirmary, in Marlborough-street, St. James's, is an extensive building, and liberally supported.

The charity for the relief and support of the blind, is particularly entitled to notice.

Here is a Free Grammar-school, where youth are instructed in classical learning, and qualified for the university.

Bristol-bridge, first built more than five hundred years ago, and rebuilt in 1768, is over the old stream of the Avon. It consists of three wide and lofty arches; has a fine stone balustrade on each side, seven feet high; raised foot-ways chained in; two

domes at each end, formerly used for toll-houses, and is well lighted with lamps. The toll has been for some years discontinued. All the avenues to the bridge were, on its erection, widened, and newly built; and it presents an agreeable prospect of the new buildings in Bridge-street, St. Nicholas church, and part of the river and quay: and, farther on, rising above the river, is Redcliffe-parade, a very neat range of handsome houses, from whence there is a most extensive and delightful view of great part of the city, the shipping, and country adjacent.

Over the river Frome is the draw-bridge, raised by a curious piece of mechanism. From hence the ships of the quay appear as trees in a forest.

Bristol is well supplied with good spring-water, from public pumps and conduits; the most remarkable of which is the conduit in Temple-street, which is of stone, and has upon it a noble statue of Neptune, much admired. The whole is enclosed by an iron palisade. The houses have all got pumps supplied from hard springs; but the soft water is generally such as falls from the heavens, and is collected in leaden reservoirs under ground, to which it is conveyed from the tops of buildings by shoots or gutters. There are vaults or common sewers (here called gautes) throughout the whole city; and perhaps there is not a house which has not communication with the main sewers. Heavy carts are not admitted into this city, for fear of damaging the arches of the vaults and gutters that are made under ground for carrying off the soil into the rivers; so that the constant draught here is by sledges, which renders the pavement in the highway of the streets exceeding slippery.

The city is divided into twelve wards, each of which has an alderman, one chief constable, and twelve others; a night-constable, watchmen, scavengers, lamp-lighters, round-houses, &c. The guard-house, or barracks for soldiers, is in Wine-street. The corporation have three processions in a year, viz.,

at Michaelmas, when the mayor is sworn into office; 29th of May, and 5th of November, when the eldest scholar of the city grammar-school, standing on a brass pillar in the street, at the Tolzey, commemorates the deliverance in a Latin oration to the mayor, who attends to him at the council-house door; and, when the declaimer dismounts, rewards him with a piece or pieces of gold, as Mr. Mayor may think proper; but the concourse of people is always so great, that very little is to be heard.

One of the two judges who go the western circuit, comes in the autumn of every year to Bristol, to hear and determine, at the Guildhall, lawsuits entirely respecting civil causes arising in Bristol, as a city and county; also, the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, hold an assize, or general gaol-delivery, of oyer and terminer, in the same hall, once in every year, most commonly in March, for the trial of capital offences committed in the jurisdiction of the city and county of Bristol, either by land or water. And the mayor and aldermen, with the town-clerk, (who presides as judge) hold a quarter-sessions for trying less criminal causes; likewise, a court of conscience, or request, is held every Monday, for the recovery of debts under the sum of forty shillings. Besides these, two sheriffs hold a pie-powder court every year in autumn, under the piazza, in a street called the Old-market.

Here are upwards of thirty other corporations, of which the society of Merchant-Venturers is the most respectable, consisting of some of the principal gentlemen of the city and its environs, and of the neighbouring nobility; generally of the prime minister, or one of the secretaries of state; and it has been honoured by the names of some of the royal family.—Notwithstanding its name, it is not merely a trading society, but formed for the promotion of the trade, commerce, and improvement of the city, and always acts in conjunction with the corporation in carrying on these great ends. The Merchant-Tailors, Mer-

cers, &c., are considerable bodies of people, and maintain various charities.

The government of this city is administered by a Mayor, who is a great officer (and before the American war had 1,500*l.* to support the dignity of his office; his salary is now fixed at 1,000*l.*), and is seldom or never seen in the streets, unless in his coach, during his mayoralty; twelve Aldermen, all justices of the peace; two Sheriffs, each of whom is allowed 400*l.* during his office; twenty-eight Common-Council, Town-Clerk, Deputy Town-Clerk, Chamberlain, Vice-Chamberlain, clerks of the court of conscience, under-sheriff, sword-bearer, &c. There are other officers subject to the corporation: eight serjeants at mace; two coroners, criers of the court, water-bailiffs, quay-masters, common crier, school-masters, clerks of the markets, exchange-keeper, club-men, messengers, beadles, a city-marshal, and a good band of musicians; all of whom have their proper gowns and dresses, and precede the corporation in processions, which they always make in a number of their own carriages.

There are two fairs usually held in Bristol: the one on the 1st of March, in Temple-street; the other on the 1st of September, in St. James's church-yard, &c. At this last there is generally a large number of horses of all kinds for sale, which seldom continues more than two or three days; at present, the principal traders who frequent these fairs are the clothiers, either to sell, or receive orders for their goods; also dealers in tanned leather, there being more of this article sold during those periods at the Back Hall than at any other fair in England. Besides these, there are hardwaremen from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sheffield, &c., and some cotton stocking-makers from Tewksbury, &c.; the rest consist of shops and stands, wherein millinery wares, toys, or some trifling articles, are exposed for sale by the town's-people. There are also two principal markets for

butchers' meat, poultry, butter, cheese, bacon, eggs, and all kinds of vegetables, &c.

The principal Market-place has a grand entrance from High-street, of stone, consisting of a lofty gate, two posterns, and a gate-house, crowned by a turret. The market consists principally of rows for butchers, and three piazzas for poultry, cheese, butter, &c., of which the middle is very noble; there are also convenient stalls for vegetables. The market, for its construction, and abundant supply of all sorts of provisions, on market-days, can be scarcely equalled.—St. James's-market, in Union-street, and the Welch-market, on the Back, are very neat and convenient, and well supplied with fish of every kind in season; the latter is a curiosity, being square, having its roof supported only by sixteen pillars, an iron palisade round it, and a turret on the top.

The merchants trade with less dependence on London, than any other town in Britain. Whatever exports they make, they are able to bring the full returns back, and dispose of them at their own port; and as they have a great trade abroad, so they have always sufficient buyers at home for their returns.—The shopkeepers are generally wholesale men, and employ carriers to all the principal towns, even from Southampton to the banks of the Trent; and by sea, and the rivers Wye and Severn, they have the whole trade of South Wales, and part of North Wales, to themselves. Their trade with Ireland is very great, from this country they import tallow, linen, woollen, and bay yarn. Their trade to the West Indies, of which they were some of the first discoverers and adventurers, is very considerable. Their West-India ships sail and arrive in fleets. They carry on the Dutch, Hamburgh, Norway, Eastland, and Russian commerce. They send ships to Newfoundland and the Mediterranean, and import great quantities of fruit, wine, and oil. The foreign trade of Bristol has, however, of late years, suffered some decrease,

from the removal of part of it to Liverpool, which enjoys some superior advantages as a sea-port.

Although the chief dependence of Bristol is upon its foreign trade, yet there are almost all kinds of business carried on in this city; and in the shops are seen as great a display and choice of every sort of goods, as is to be met with any where in the kingdom, and which are sold at as cheap rates. There are many very capital manufactories here, and in the neighbourhood, which, by reason of the great plenty and cheapness of coal and other fuel, with the easiness of land and water carriage, the proprietors are enabled to sell on as low terms as can be done elsewhere. The brass-works at Baptist's Mills, at the distance of about one mile to the north-east of the city, situate on the river Frome, claim our attention; for this was the first place where brass was made in England, and the original workmen were brought over from Holland for the purpose. The quantity made here is prodigious; it is drawn into wire, or formed into what is called *battery*, for the Guinea trade, and other purposes, from whence it is sent to London, Liverpool, and every part of the kingdom. Another work of the same kind was also carried on at Warmley, about five miles from Bristol, but which has been discontinued some time. There are likewise several large works for smelting copper, at Crew's-Hole, and other places on the banks of the Avon, between Bristol and Bath, and some others in Kingswood. There are also three iron foundries, in the parish of St. Philip and Jacob, where cannon, &c., are cast, and where is a steam-engine for boring them, when run in the solid. In the same parish are likewise very considerable lead-works, where the lead is smelted for the ore, and wrought into milled lead, or cast into sheets, &c., and adjoining thereto, the same proprietors have erected a white-lead house of great extent, where they make large quantities, as also of red-lead; and here it may not be amiss to re-

mark, that Bristol is famous for making small lead shot, of which vast quantities used to be exported to America, &c.; this article, on account of its roundness and colour, being preferred abroad to that made in any other place.

The returns made here, in the glass manufactory, are prodigious: great numbers of bottles are used for sending the water of St. Vincent's spring to all parts of England and the world. Here are also upwards of 20 large sugar-houses, several turpentine, sulphur, and vitriol-houses; considerable manufactures of woollen stuffs, shalloons, duroys, plush, serges, silk, lace, broad-cloth, and sail-cloth; also several potteries, where they make the finest queen's-ware, and brown stone-ware, equal to any other in the kingdom.

The distilleries are carried on in a very extensive line, the demand for spirits for the African trade and internal consumption being very great; the excise duties thereon, paid to government, amount to several thousand pounds a year. On the banks of the Avon, nearly opposite the Hot-well-house, a large building is erected, wherein is a curious mill for spinning cotton, upon the principle of Arkwright's, but greatly improved: a spring of pure water, that gushes directly from out of the rock, works this mill, and from thence runs immediately into the river.

All kinds of persons are at liberty to exercise their trades and callings here, without molestation from the corporation, and may purchase the freedom of the city for a moderate sum.

The inhabitants of Bristol are from almost all parts of the world. Here are people of different countries, languages, and religions; so that their general characteristic cannot well be given. Its gentry, merchants, and capital traders, live in as elegant style as any in the kingdom. Its shopkeepers are remarkable for their activity and industry; but they are abrupt in their behaviour, which has obtained for

them a very unfavourable designation. Literature is now much cultivated in Bristol, and it abounds with men of talent in all the liberal professions.

The increase of this city, on all sides, by its new buildings and improvements, is scarcely credible. Upwards of 8,000 houses have been built on new foundations since the commencement of this century, and it is continually increasing.

The internal and trading parts of the city are partly antique, high, irregular, and projecting, and built of wood and plaster; many houses, however, and several entire streets, are elegantly built of brick and stone; all other kinds of building being now prohibited here by act of parliament.

The heart of the city was formerly rather close, but the streets have been lately much widened and improved, and several have been totally rebuilt. Its external parts are very spacious and agreeable, elegantly built, and inhabited by merchants, gentry, and people out of business. There are parades, and convenient and agreeable places to walk in, at almost every part of the town: particularly Redcliff-parade, which commands a pleasant prospect of part of the city and harbour. The city is paved, and lighted with gas.

The city of Bristol has recently undergone several alterations and improvements. The avenues of trees on the College Green are cut down, and the green surrounded by a light and ornamental railing. A substantial iron railing is also erected on the banks of the river Frome. The introduction of gas has also met with much favour, and promises to become an object of general utility. Three of the new places of worship, constructed for the use of Dissenters, have each a front composed of free-stone.

On the 29th of February, 1820, the foundation-stone of a new literary and philosophical foundation was laid with the usual formalities in Park-street. The procession that attended this ceremony was com-

posed of the mayor and principal municipal officers. This building will contain a spacious lecture-room, a laboratory, reading-rooms, &c.

Bristol is also to be new paved with a quartzous sand-stone, with a ferruginous cement, lying in lamina, easily raised, which will never want the aid of gunpowder to divide it; squares easily with the hammer; and, if once well laid, ages will not mark its decay. It is commonly called Brandon-hill stone.

On the north-west side of the city is Brandon-hill, where the laundresses dry their linen; for which purpose, it is said, it was granted to the city by Queen Elizabeth; who also gave a charter, whereby every man that marries the daughter of a citizen of Bristol becomes free of the city; but this, like many other well-intended privileges, is shamefully perverted, and made subservient to the purposes of corruption; for upon all contested elections, the grand effort of the contending parties is to patch up all the matches they can with the lower order of freemen's daughters, by giving a douceur to any man who is willing to sacrifice at the altar of Hymen.

On the top of Brandon Hill are the ruined foundations of an ancient hermitage and chapel, once dedicated to the saint whose name the hill now bears; as also many entrenchments, thrown up during the civil wars between Charles I. and his Parliament.

At the foot of Brandon-hill is a spring, called Jacob's Well, near which was the old theatre, erected by the celebrated Mr. Hippesley, who was a native of Bristol; but since the new theatre has been built, the old one has been laid aside. Near it is a very handsome assembly-room, which, during the summer, is resorted to by the gentry.

Before the Reformation, there were many religious houses in Bristol and its neighbourhood; but not the least remains of any are now to be seen.

Bristol has three weekly markets for provisions, held on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; besides which there is a market every Thursday for

live cattle. The city is distant from London 119 miles.

In a field near Bristol is an empty tomb, erected by Sir William Draper, Col. of the 79th regiment, to the memory of his soldiers, who fell in the East Indies, A. D. 1768. On the tomb is a Latin inscription, the translation of which by W. Hamilton Reid, is as follows:—

"Hold, passenger!—if e'er thy country's love
Did in thy breast a patriot's ardour move,
Pause here; and let this vacant tomb recall
The fate of men, by glory led to fall
In hostile fields, where Ganges fills his urn,
Fated, to Britain never to return!
Nor blush, 'mong many that attention claim,
By chance to find some known, some kindred name!
A tear—a sigh, should give thy mind relief,
But from their laurels spare unmanly grief;
Spare it you must, if on their deeds you dwell,
Who toil'd, who fought, and who unconquer'd fell;
Thy country's love must lend a hero's fire,
Consume thy grief, and force thee to admire!

"Yet, if that Asia's mighty realms you'd trace,
To reap renown among the war-plum'd race;
Of those learn valour to their latest breath,
Of others fortune, and inglorious death."

Within a mile of Bristol on the left side of the road is a gentleman's seat called Arnos Vale, and near to which is the elegant mansion built of freestone, belonging to J. Maxse, esq. On the left is a building which resembles a castle, and has a good effect; but upon approaching, it is found to be stables. On descending the hill, a view of the populous city of Bristol bursts upon the traveller.

Crossing the iron bridge previous to a direct entrance into Bristol, there is a delightful walk on the banks of the Avon, which is one mile and a half nearer to Clifton and the Hot Wells than through the bustling strects of the city. A second iron bridge

of one arch soon presents itself close to Bathurst's hotel, contiguous to which is the new gaol built of rock stones. This prison is an extensive building, and has a lodge and yard in the front of it. The keeper's house is in the centre, adjoining to which are two iron galleries nearly at the top of it leading to two long wings. It has a formidable and terrifying aspect; the iron gratings of the windows are strong and massy, and the prison is completely encircled with a high stone wall. On passing this receptacle for the depraved and abandoned, the eye is relieved with a most enlivening, extensive, and diversified prospect. To his right there is a fine view of that part of the venerable cathedral which appears to stand in the centre of the trees supported by the spire of St. Augustine's, St. Stephen's, St. Werberg, Christ Church, and All Saints. In the front, Tyndale's Park; the house belonging to its proprietor stands on an eminence contiguous to Brandon Hill. At a small distance from this spot which throws an elegance over the scene, rises in a most majestic style the *York Crescent*. From its extraordinary elevation it has a very attractive appearance, many of the houses being ornamented with handsome verandas. It is built of free-stone, though some of these lofty edifices differ as to colour. To increase the effect, at a considerable distance beneath the above fine range of residences, is the Lower Crescent; but many of the houses remain in an unfinished state. On the side of the Royal Crescent a charming row of houses appears in great forwardness. The Hot Wells Road is also distinctly seen. *Illhouse Dock*, with ships in what is termed "the float" gives a most interesting variety to the prospect. To the left is seen, at an immense height, Ashton Hill, which is distinguished by having three trees upon the top of it, and the mansion of Lady Smith, near Lee Wood. Pursuing the walk, the traveller is impeded by a stop gate, where one halfpenny is demanded for the ac-

commodation, and contiguous to this gate is Nova Scotia wharf. Here is the entrance from the river to the float, passing through Cumberland Basin, Rownham Tavern, and the Ferry is now soon gained by the traveller, which affords a most delightful opening, and view of Dundry Hill, with the tower upon its top. To the right, but almost close to the above tavern, stands a fine handsome range of buildings, called "*Watts's Folly*," upon a rock of an immense height. The ruggedness of the rock has been cleaned off so smoothly, that it has now the appearance of very fine brick-work. The "Folly," as it has been termed, was originally commenced by the proprietor of the patent shot manufactory, but it completely ruined him before it was half-built.

A story is very prevalent at Clifton, respecting this Folly, and is vouched for as a fact; namely, that Mr. Watts was induced to undertake these buildings in consequence of a dream that had some allusion to the process of making shot, which must fall from a considerable height before they can acquire a finish. The story goes on to say that out of one of these fallen shot that rebounded from the ground, an immense range of high houses instantly appeared, which promised an increase of fortune. Mr. Watts being at Clifton at the time, and this rock seeming to accord with his dream, the buildings were immediately set about: but, unfortunately for himself and family, this favourable interpretation was never realized; on the contrary, disappointment and destruction ensued.

On passing the Folly, on the turn round by the side of the inn, a fine gravel walk appears shaded by a line of trees 600 feet in length, contiguous to which is St. Vincent's Parade, an elegant row of houses built of free-stone. At the end of the parade is a handsome colonnade in the form of a crescent filled with shops, an agreeable promenade in wet weather, and near to which is the Hot Well House and Pump Room.

The Hot-Wells are distant one mile and a half westward from the city of Bristol, on the Gloucestershire side of the river Avon, in the parish of Clifton. The river here is but little, if any, broader than at Bristol, and is almost dry at low water; but on the full and change of the moon, the spring-tides rise to the height of from thirty to thirty-six feet perpendicular; so that there is sufficient depth of water for a ship of 1,500 tons to pass up or down with safety. On each side of the river rises a most magnificent range of stupendous craggy rocks; those on the Hot-well side are called St. Vincent's, on the highest of which was formerly a chapel dedicated to that saint, who was a native of Spain, and suffered martyrdom at Valencia, anno 305. The spring was anciently called St. Vincent's Well. About one third of the way down this rock is a large cavern, called Giant's-Hole, which is supposed to have been an old hermitage, and, originally, to have communicated with the surface, near the chapel. These rocks, for the most part, when broken up, are of a brown or chocolate coloured granite, very hard, close-grained, and, on being struck with a hammer, emit a strong sulphureous stench; when sawed into slabs, it appears beautifully variegated throughout, with veins of white, bluish grey, yellow, or faint red; and as it bears as high a polish as any of the foreign marbles, it is frequently wrought for chimney-pieces, &c., much of it is also used as ballast for the shipping, and for making lime; for which last purpose there is not any stone in England equal to it for strength and whiteness; and on this account there is a great demand for it abroad.

As these rocks on one side of the river so perfectly coincide with the opposite (the strata of which running in correspondent parallels), most people concur in opinion, that they were once united in the same body, and have been separated by some dreadful convulsion of nature.

On the blowing up of these rocks, between the joints of the different strata, in crevices and small ca-

vities, it is that those crystals, known by the name of Bristol-stones, are found, some of which are exceedingly clear, colourless, and brilliant, and of so hard a nature, as to cut glass, which gave rise to their being called Bristol diamonds: some of them have been set in rings, &c., in their natural state, which appeared as well cut and polished, as if wrought by the most skilful lapidary; some few are found tinged with purple, and others of a yellow colour; which last may not improperly bé termed amethysts and topazes.

The men employed in blowing up the rocks near St. Vincent's, it has been observed, perform a service of danger; but they have tables set out by the side of the river with selections of various pieces of the rock, termed bacon, blue, and black spar, with some variegated Bristol-stone for sale; the price at the generosity of the purchaser. Some parts of this stone are polished and made into chimney-pieces, but it is mostly burnt for lime. The echo when the blowing up is performed, is thunder indeed, and the men on the rocks engaged in sending some of the fragments down, appear like little boys.

Near to the top of one of the high rocks is the Giant's Hole, consisting of two cavities, an outer and an inner chamber, where, according to tradition, a giant, or perhaps a robber, dwelt. All approach to it has been very properly blown up, to prevent accidents.

On proceeding to a short distance, the turning of the river still continues attractive. The view of King's Road, and Cook's Folly, must be seen, to feel the beauty of the impression; on the latter place a great number of the trees have been cut down to increase the prospect, and there is one of the most delightful look-outs from an old building, that can be imagined.

On turning to the right and ascending the hill, the delightful village of Clifton will be gained, which, for its salubrious air, has been called The Montpelier of

England. The turf here abounds with aromatic plants, growing wild, which are not to be met with in any other part of England. Clifton Downs is covered with verdure all the year. Many invalids are seen here drawn in small curricles by a pair of donkeys; the charge for this vehicle, with the driver, is not more than 1*s.* 6*d.* per hour.

Besides some Roman remains, here is an old tower with a brick floor, but without any roof. From three open spaces, formerly doors, are delightful views; in front an extensive prospect of Gloucestershire; on the right, part of Clifton, Northampton Buildings, and in the back ground Dundry Hill. On the left, King's Road, with the ships laying at anchor, the Bristol Channel, and the Mountains in South Wales. At the end of the Downs the traveller's notice is attracted by the mansion of Sir William Draper, once so conspicuous in the minds of the public from the severe chastisement he received from the pen of the celebrated Junius. To the left of his seat is an expensive monument, with an urn upon its top, erected by this gentleman, who was colonel of the 79th regiment, to the memory of his soldiers who fell in the East Indies, A. D. 1768, with an Inscription "Sacred to the memory of the Field Officers Colonels Brereton and Moor; the Lieutenants, Ensigns, and Surgeons, of the 79th regiment." The inscription also states—"The French forces in Asia were withstood and repulsed; the commerce of Great Britain preserved by the defence of Madras. The battle of Wandewash; three superb capitals taken, Arcot, Pondicherry, the Manilla and Philippine islands. The generous treatment of a vanquished enemy—exhibiting an illustrious example of true fortitude and moderation worthy of being transmitted to the latest posterity—that future generations may know that humanity is the characteristic of the British conquerors!"

These conquests were obtained from 1759 to 1768.

To the right of the house is another monument, with a lofty pillar bearing the following inscription:

Gulielmo Pitt, Comite de Chatham,
Hoc Amicitiæ privatæ Testimonium,
Simul et Honores publici Monumentum,
Posuit Gulielmus Draper.

A few minutes bring the visitor to Sion House, or the Upper Hot Well; it is an elegant erection, and also contains a most excellent library. At this house reside Miss Sharples and her brother George, excellent portrait painters. The Prince of Wales's Crescent is a handsome range of houses, but the Mall, for beauty of situation, may be said to take the lead.

Rodney and Saville Places, Richmond Terrace, Boyce's Buildings, York and Prince's, &c., are all worthy of inspection. The Royal York Crescent, added to Beaufort, Paragon, and Trafalgar Buildings, with Windsor Terrace, commanding views of the river, render this watering-place a most desirable retreat. The fine architectural appearance of Mangeon Hotel ought not to be passed over.

Near the church at Clifton is the mansion of Gabriel Goldney, Esq., so attractive from its celebrated curious grotto, its fine roof, and rich mosaic pavements, together with its stream of water in gentle rills, contrived to fill a reservoir for gold and silver fish. A subterraneous passage is connected with the grotto leading to a terrace.

On quitting Clifton the most preferable road to return to Bristol is to cross Brandon Hill, which is about 250 feet in perpendicular height from its base. College Green and the Docks, if time permit, are worthy of notice. In Clare-Street the Exchange, Post-Office, and Council-House. Turning down High-Street the traveller will pass over Bristol Bridge, built with Portland stone, an elegant structure of three arches; then going on through Temple-Street, the iron bridge may be crossed.

It is scarcely possible for imagination to form any thing more enchanting and beautiful than the views about the Hot-Wells, whether seen from below, or from the summit of the cliffs: the richness and gran-

deur of the scene are almost inconceivable; in some places the rocks, venerably majestic, rise perpendicularly, or, overhanging, craggy and bare; in others, they are clothed with the most luxuriant shrubs and stately trees, all in their wildest state, rising one above the other, displaying the greatest variety of verdure, accompanied with every hue and elegance of colour that Nature can bestow on her most favourite production, to gratify the sense, and charm the eye. The turf on which we tread, abounds with aromatic plants, &c., natives of this spot, and which are not to be met with in any other part of the kingdom; they here grow spontaneously, and the air being perfumed with their refreshing fragrance, the valetudinarian seems to breathe new life, and again enjoys the blessings that await returning health and cheerfulness. From the bottom of these cliffs, on the east bank of the river, issues the Bristol Hot-well-water, so deservedly esteemed for its efficacy in various disorders. The spring rises out of an aperture in the solid rock, about ten feet above the surface of the river, at low water, and is computed to discharge about forty gallons in a minute.

There is a shaded parade, or walk, by the Well-house, which is a very handsome and convenient building. When the river is full, and the ships are carried up and down by the tide, passing through the meadows and trees, or between the rocks, the prospect is enchanting. The well-house has a small piazza, and a handsome and pleasant pump-room, close by the water-side, where the river makes its entrance between these stupendous cliffs of rocks; between high and low water-mark, the spring rises perpendicularly out of the rock in the sloping bank of the river, at the foot of the cliff. The pumps raise the water up thirty feet high, in the centre of the house called the Pump-room, whose thick walls keep off the tide from the spring. This pump-room is to be taken down to increase the towing-path, and also in consequence of the injury it has sustained from the attraction of *Sion House;* a new one is to be erected in a more prefer-

able situation, and a road made to it. Her late Majesty, when she visited Clifton, drank the water at the old pump-room. The water is drunk chiefly in the summer months. There is a band of music every morning at the pump-room, and a master of the ceremonies, who is distinguished by a gold medal at his breast. The water passes through a vast bed of rocks, and when drunk at the spring-head it has a fine gentle warmth, and a soft milky taste; it is very grateful to the stomach, and extremely serviceable in many complaints. It is generally allowed to be cooling, cleansing, and balsamic; but one of its most remarkable qualities is its astringency; this renders it useful, if not a specific, in that terrible complaint the diabetes, and, in consequence of its other qualities, it is drunk, with great success, in obstructions of the uninary passages from gravel; as also in many chronic cases, from which very little relief can be hoped by the common course of medicine. Its cooling quality renders it of great use in internal inflammations; and by its astringency, it strengthens the stomach, promotes an appetite, and assists digestion: at the same time it does not affect the taste of the food, a circumstance too common with mineral waters, and which renders their use disagreeable. When the lungs are too much affected, its use is to be avoided, but in the first stages of those fatal distempers it is very beneficial.

The method observed in drinking these waters is this: on the first arrival, the person goes to the pump-room in the morning, and drinks a glass or two before breakfast: in the evening this is repeated about five, when one or two more are taken. The next day he drinks before breakfast three glasses, and the same in the afternoon, which he continues to do during the whole of his stay. Each of these glasses contains the third of a pint, and an half an hour between each glass is allowed by the pump clock; the intermediate time he passes in the pump-room, where is a good band of music during the season, or he can walk by

the Avon, and be diverted by the ships and vessels passing up and down with the tide, whose course is here very rapid.

The taste of the water is found so agreeable, that drinking this quantity is far from a task; it is universally done with pleasure, and many, rather than disgusted, are fond of it. There are some who send for the water to their lodgings, and drink it, either alone or mixed with their wine, and make their tea with it. By this means the advantages derived from drinking the waters are multiplied. Besides the internal use of this water, many persons, who have weak and inflamed eyes, find great benefit from it: they take it warm from the pump, in a little cup, and with a bit of soft rag wash their eyes pretty often with it; this, in time, cools the part, takes off the inflammation, and greatly strengthens the sight. There is also another advantage attending the hot-well, and from which many people have received great benefit, that of bathing in the water.

In order to this, several little baths, for one person at a time, are constructed near the well: these baths are chiefly frequented by those who are afflicted with some kind of weakness. When persons first make use of these baths, they imagine it rather weakens than strengthens them; but a little perseverance sufficiently convinces them of their mistake, as they perceive themselves gaining strength every day.

Many persons in health often make use of these baths, in order to refresh themselves. The water which fills these little baths is the same as that which is drunk; but by the time it is pumped up, through the cold leaden pipes into these stone baths, very little warmth is to be felt. These baths are generally bespoken over night by those who bathe early, and they are always ready at the appointed time, the bath having a fresh supply of water for each person.

The accommodations of all kinds at the Wells are excellent, and the people very obliging to all who visit them. There is good company during the whole sea-

son, which continues from April to September, and several sources of diversion and amusement. For those who take pleasure in riding, there is one of the finest spots in the kingdom, particularly on Clifton and Durdham Downs, which are lofty, being level with the tops of the rock. These are covered with a constant verdure all the year, and command a beautiful prospect of the ships lying at anchor in King-road, off the Bristol Channel, and part of South Wales; enjoying at the same time the benefit of the sea-air, which affords a constant breeze, even in the hottest weather, and strengthens and refreshes the lungs.

The village of Clifton is universally allowed to be one of the most agreeable, healthy, and pleasant spots in the kingdom; the air is so remarkably pure and salubrious, as to occasion its being styled the English Montpelier. It lies in the hundred of King's-Barton; is situated on the south and west of the cliff or hill (whence its name) one mile westward of the city of Bristol, over great part of which it commands a very pleasing prospect, as also of the ships and vessels that, on the flood and ebb tide, sail up and down the Avon. On the opposite shore, the well-cultivated lands of Somersetshire present themselves in a very beautiful landscape, rising gradually four or five miles from the verge of the river, to the top of Dundry Hill, whereon is a high tower, esteemed the Proteus of the weather, as being commonly enveloped with mist, so as scarcely to be visible, against rain; but, on the contrary, if it is seen clear and distinct in the morning, it denotes the approach of a fine day.

The delightful situation of Clifton has long since tempted several persons of large fortune to make it their principal residence; and others continuing to follow the example, has occasioned the hill to be almost every where covered with respectable mansions, most of them built with free-stone, in a very elegant style; and two noble crescents, on a plan superior to any thing of the kind. Here are also a great num-

ber of handsome houses, built purposely for letting lodgings; some nearly adjoining the Hot-Wells.

On Clifton Down there are ancient fortifications and entrenchments, and coins of the later Roman emperors have frequently been found about the camp; there are other entrenchments opposite, on the Somersetshire side of the river Avon. They are all supposed to be the works of the Roman soldiers under Ostorius, who caused fortifications to be raised in many places along that river, above and below Bristol, which was probably the reason why the Britons gave the name of Caer Oder, that is, Castrum Ostorii, to that city.

About four miles from Clifton is King's Weston, from whence there is an exceeding fine view of King-road and the Bristol Channel; a part of Wales on one side, Somersetshire on the other, and Denny Island in the middle: below is the seat of Lord de Clifford, and on the right the mouth of the Avon.

Lord de Clifford's seat was built from a design of Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect who erected Blenheim, and is somewhat in the same style of building. Here is a very capital collection of paintings, by the most celebrated masters. The gardens and plantations are extensive, and the hot-house is said to be equal to any thing of the kind in England. It contains a prodigious number of the most valuable and curious exotics.

Below Kingroad is Pill, a port town and convenient bay for shipping. About two miles on the north, towards Gloucester, we lose sight of the Avon, and exchange it for an open view of the Severn Sea, which is on the west side, and which seems there as broad as the ocean; except that there are two or three small islands in it on the north-west.

Beyond this lies the coast of South Wales; the nearest point of which is the shore of Monmouthshire. The shores then begin to draw towards each other, and the coasts lie parallel.

Besides the beautiful village of Clifton, and the ad-

jacent scenery, there are many handsome seats and delightful situations in different parts of the neighbourhood of Bristol, of which the following merit particular notice.

About three miles south-west of Bristol, at Ashton, or Long Ashton, a most delightful village, which we have already described, is the seat and park of Sir John Smith, bart. The house is of considerable extent in front, and contains a great number of windows; the architect was the celebrated Inigo Jones.

One mile and a half from Bristol, on the road to Bath, is ARNO'S VALE, and on the left, opposite to it, is a castle-like edifice, built with copper slagg, or scoria, of a black colour, the joints between which, with the interlacings and battlements, being white, has a whimsical effect. Here is erected the old gate, which formerly was the entrance into Bristol Castle from the Old Market, in which are placed, in niches, two ancient images; the one is Ælla, the other Cœrnicus, who were wardens of Bristol Castle, and great warriors against the Danes, in the days of King Eldred; these images, before their removal hither, stood on the outside of Lawford's Gate, which was taken down in 1767. They are said to be upwards of 800 years old.

About a mile and a half east of Bristol, on the banks of the river Avon, is a place called CREW'S HOLE. Here is a curious hydraulic machine, invented and constructed by the late ingenious Mr. Padmore, for throwing water into a reservoir for the use of the city of Bristol. The reservoir is at a little distance, on the top of a hill, from whence, by subterranean pipes, the water is conveyed to some parts of the city. Here are also two works for smelting copper, &c.

One mile north-west of Bristol, is a very pleasant village, called REDLANDS. The principal building in this place is that called Redlands Court, the seat of Jeremiah Baker, Esq. It is an elegant modern structure built by John Cossen, esq., from a design of Mr.

Strachan, architect. The gardens belonging to it are exceedingly fine, and kept in excellent order.

About four miles north-east of Bristol, is Stoke House, the seat of the Duchess Dowager of Beaufort, in the parish of Stoke Gifford. This capital mansion was originally built by Sir Richard Berkeley, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It was greatly damaged during the civil wars, in the unhappy reign of Charles I. The late Lord Bottetourt, about the year 1760, may be said to have almost rebuilt it, and it is now a very noble mansion, and well worth a stranger's observation. It stands on the brow of a lofty hill, that rises abruptly from a fine lawn; the carriage-way winds through this lawn by a gentle easy ascent up to the house, where is a fine bold terrace in the front, that commands an extensive prospect of rich and fertile country to the south and east; and to the west you see great part of the city of Bristol and its environs, and beyond that to Dundry.

Here are beautiful woods, through which are made walks, or rides, that extend several miles, all the way planted on each side with elegant shrubs and evergreens of various kinds.

The fine clumps of trees here and there in the park, with the elegance of the slopes, render this place altogether a terrestrial paradise.

Two miles north-west of Bristol is a place called Stoke Bishop, where is a fine old mansion, that belonged to Sir Henry Lippencott.

To the left, about half a mile distant, is a building resembling a church, or tower: this is called Cook's Folly; it stands on the brow of a high cliff, that overlooks the river quite down to Kingroad. The common people in this neighbourhood relate that one Cook, having dreamed that a viper should bite him, and occasion his death, he, to prevent it, erected this building, and immured himself therein; yet, nevertheless, his dream came to pass: a viper happened to be concealed among some faggots that were laid upon a fire, by which Cook was sitting to warm himself;

the venomous reptile, on feeling the heat, suddenly sprang forth, and bit him, so that he died.

It is now a pleasure-house belonging to Mrs. Jackson, who has a fine old seat, seen from hence, called Snead Park; near to which is Say-Mill Dock, a place that was, a few years since, of great importance, and made at a very considerable expense; it was of such magnitude as to contain several large ships, which lay afloat in its basin; but as there are now other docks, in more convenient situations, this has been neglected, and the walls, gates, &c., with the cranes and houses, are almost gone to ruin.

In the parish of Abbot's Leigh, about four miles west of Bristol, is a fine large old mansion, memorable for affording an asylum to King Charles II. after his escape from the battle of Worcester, in the year 1651.

About five miles north of Bristol, in the county of Gloucester, is Blaize Castle, the seat of J. S. Harford, esq. It is chiefly visited on account of the woods, which are exquisitely beautiful: in them are walks that extend two or three miles round, laid out with great taste, and so justly disposed, that the eye is all the way charmed and delighted with the variety of objects, and grandeur of the scene. On reaching the top of the hill, you enter a lawn, in which is erected a pleasure-house, styled Blaize Castle. The ground plan of this building is a circle, flanked on the outside with three round towers, equidistant from each other, forming a triangle; in one of them is a geometrical staircase, by which you ascend to a large elegant room, &c. This castle is erected on so great an elevation, that from the leads on the top of it, we overlook all the neighbouring hills, the river Severn, Kingroad, &c., and enjoy one of the most enchanting prospects in the world. This edifice is named Blaize Castle, from its being situate on the summit of Blaize-hill, where formerly stood a chapel dedicated to St. Blazius, Bishop of St. Sebaste, and patron of the wool-combers.

Here are strong lines of a fortification, which are probably those of an old camp formed by the Romans.

This edifice was erected, and the pleasure-grounds laid out, by Thomas Farr, esq. about the year 1766, and, in digging the foundation for it, some brass coins of Vespasian, Antoninus, Constantius, Tetricus, and others of the late Roman emperors, were found, with a few silver ones, chiefly of Gordianus; but the most curious of them all was a large brass medal, with a very fine head of Faustina, and on the reverse a female figure holding an infant in her hand, whence, and from the inscription FERTILITAS, it is supposed to have been struck upon that empress's lying-in.

Sir Robert Atkyns informs us, that, in the year 1707, the old foundation of the chapel was dug up, and a vault discovered, ten yards long and six broad, wherein were many human bodies, with the skulls entire, and the teeth white; and that there were many coins and other Roman antiquities found. Besides this camp, there are two others; the one on Kingswestonhill, and the other on Comb-hill, supposed to be Roman.

About five miles north of Bristol is Pen Park, the seat of — Barnsley, esq., near which is a remarkable cavern, called Pen-park hole, taken notice of by many historians for its depth. This hole, of which some account has been published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, is situate in the corner of a plain field, and is encompassed, for a small distance round, with a hedge, to prevent cattle, &c., from falling into it: about this hedge there are a few bushes growing; therefore those, whose curiosity may tempt them to visit it, will do well to look cautiously about them, before they venture to explore this dreadful gulf.—Within this enclosure, which is but a few yards in circumference, a most horrid chasm presents itself to the eye, of no great depth at the opening, but, a little lower it extends, on every side, quite out of sight: if a stone be cast into this opening, it will be heard

dashing against the protuberances of rock, &c., which it meets with in falling, for a considerable time, till, at last, it is lost by plunging into a vast depth of water. A melancholy accident, which happened here on Friday the 17th of March, 1775, was the cause of this place being more universally known than heretofore, and was the means of several persons venturing themselves down into it. The Rev. Mr. Newnham, one of the minor canons of Bristol Cathedral, in company with another gentleman and two ladies, went to this place to examine its depth with a line, and, on approaching the mouth of the aperture, for his greater safety, laid hold of a twig that sprung from the root of an ash growing over the mouth of the cavern; but his foot unfortunately slipping, the twig broke, and he fell to the bottom in sight of his friends, whose distress at this dreadful event may be imagined, but not described: and here we cannot omit a remarkable circumstance, which is the Psalm, in the morning-service of that day, read by him at Clifton Church, where he officiated, for being so plaintively descriptive of his approaching catastrophe (Psalm lxxxviii. 5. "Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit: in a place of darkness, and in the deep.") Many persons went down daily, for a considerable time, in search of the body, which was not found till thirty-nine days after the accident, when it was discovered floating on the water.

Journey from Dulverton to Bath; through Taunton, Langport, Somerton, Glastonbury, and Wells.

DULVERTON,

In the hundred of Williton Freemanors, on the borders of Devonshire, is a small but very agreeable town, pleasantly situated on the river Exe, and on the high road from London into Cornwall. The market is on Saturday, and there are two fairs, on July 10, and November 8.

Ancient records inform us that this town was occupied by the West Saxon kings, and it was still in the possession of the crown at the time of the Conquest.

The hundred of WILLITON FREEMANORS is an extensive district, crossing the north-west extremity of the county, from the Bristol Channel to the borders of Devonshire, and contains thirty-one parishes.

About ten miles from Dulverton is WIVELISCOMBE, in the hundred of Kingsbury West, a large market-town, eleven miles west from Taunton, and seven north-west from Wellington. It is beautifully situated in a valley, surrounded on every side by lofty hills, covered with rich and beautiful woods.

The market is on Saturday, and there are three fairs for sheep, cattle, and pedlary ware, on May 2, Trinity Monday, and 25th September. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the coarse woollen manufacture, which has been carried on at this place to a considerable extent.

The municipal government is vested in a bailiff and portreeve, annually chosen at a court held in May: the portreeve is always elected out of a part of the town called the borough.

Three miles from hence is MILVERTON, a small but very ancient market-town, eight miles west from Taunton, and five north-west from Wellington. It is beautifully situated in a fertile country, abounding in wood. The town was anciently a borough, and is now governed by a portreeve. It has a market on Friday, and a small manufactory of coarse woollen cloths.

Having already described the towns of Wellington and Taunton, we shall pass on till we reach CURRY RIVELL, a very considerable village, eleven miles east from Taunton. In this parish an excellent sort of broad paving-stone is dug up, which is frequently raised ten feet long, and three feet broad.

On the north side of this parish is a bold ridge of hills, rising with a steep ascent about 400 feet from West Sedgemoor, the slope being finely waved, indented, and clothed with hanging woods.

Within a cove, open to Sedgemoor, at the very top of this ridge, is Burton Pynsent, formerly the seat of

the Earl of Chatham: the estate has been lately sold, and the mansion-house pulled down.

To the illustrious father of the late possessor of this estate, the Dowager Countess of Chatham erected an urn of white marble, with the following inscription, viz.:

(On the front of the pedestal.)

"Sacred to pure affection, this simple urn stands a witness of unceasing grief for him, who, excelling in whatever is most admirable, and adding to the exercise of the sublimest virtues the sweet charm of refined sentiment and polished wit, by gay and social commerce rendered beyond comparison happy the course of domestic life; and bestowed a felicity upon her, whose faithful love was blessed in a pure return, that raised her above every joy but the parental one—and *that* still shared with him. His generous country with monuments has eternalized his name.—This humble tribute is but to soothe the sorrowing breast of private woe."

(On the back.)

"To the memory of WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM, this marble is inscribed, by Hester, his beloved wife, 1781."

This elegant and delicate token of conjugal affection stands at the end of a narrow walk in the park, shaded with laurels, the urn supported by a square pedestal, and surrounded by a festoon. In the north-east part of the grounds is a noble column of white stone, 140 feet high, erected by the late earl, at 2,000*l.* expense, to the memory of Sir William Pynsent. It bears this simple inscription, viz.:

"Sacred to the memory of SIR WILLIAM PYNSENT:
"Hoc saltem fungar inani munere."

The house was a large irregular building, situated on the northern ridge of the hills, and overlooking West Sedgemoor, as above-mentioned.

LANGPORT,

In the hundred of Pitney, is a small but very neat town, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, near the river Parret, which is navigable here, and barges are continually passing with coals and other goods. It is a very ancient town, and derives its name from the Saxon words *Lang*, extended, and *Port*, a town, from the uncommon length of its principal street. In the time of William the Conqueror, it was a royal borough, and had thirty-four resident burgesses. In the reign of Edward I. it sent representatives to parliament, but, some years after, having neglected to obey the summons, that privilege was taken away, and has not been since restored. The government of the town is vested in a portreeve and recorder, assisted by proper officers. It has a weekly market on Saturdays, and four fair days, viz., the second Monday in Lent, Old Midsummer, Michaelmas, and St. Martin's days.

Near Langport is Muchelney, or, the Great Island; so called by reason of its being enclosed between the rivers Ivel and Parret, and its being frequently insulated by the waters of the surrounding pools. In this parish was formerly an abbey for Benedictine monks, said to have been built and endowed by King Athelstan; of which Dr. Maton found some remains converted into a farm-house. A part of the old kitchen, with the stove, &c., may be seen, and a good deal of painted glass is retained in the windows, which are ornamented with sculpture on the outside. Stone staircases, and pointed arches, are entire in various parts of the house. There is a tradition, that the monks of this abbey cultivated woad in the neighbouring lands.

The parish of Bishop's-Huish adjoins Langport, on the north-east, and contains some excellent grassland, upon which vast numbers of cattle are reared and fattened. The tower of Huish Church is a very

stately and elegant object, ornamented at the top with eight Gothic pinnacles, each surmounted with a spear-head.

SOMERTON,

In the hundred of the same name, is about five miles from Langport, situated on elevated ground, and consists principally of five streets, containing several good houses, built of blue lyas-stone, brought from the quarries in the neighbourhood. This town, in ancient times, gave name to the whole county, and is supposed to have received its own from the æstival pleasantness of its situation. In the time of the Saxons, it is said to have been of considerable extent, fortified and walled round. Ina, king of the West Saxons, had a palace and castle here. In 877, the place was plundered, and nearly destroyed, by the Danes; but, being soon rebuilt, it became the most considerable town in the west. When Edward the Black Prince had taken John, king of France, prisoner, he was removed from the castle of Hertford to that of Somerton, as a place of greater security. On the decay of the castle, the common prison of the town was erected out of its ruins. The remaining fragments of this last building are still extant, and part of the Bear Inn is built out of them; at the back of which is a remnant of the old wall, and part of a semicircular tower.

There were, at the time of the Norman survey, few more extensive manors than that of Somerton; which comprehended, besides the town, the borough of Langport, and the lands of three Saxon Thanes.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with an octangular tower on the south side. In the south wall of the belfry, in a niche formed by a plain pointed arch, lies the effigy of 'one Editha, in portrature of stone, the whiche was by lyke the Saxten, that had the rule of the churche and houses; and by lyke the foundres of the steeple.'

Near the church is an excellent Free-School. The

town is under the government of a bailiff, chosen annually by the inhabitants; and there is a hall in the centre of the town for holding petty sessions.

The market is on Tuesday, and there are five fairs for cattle, three weeks intervening between each: the first begins on the Tuesday in Passion Week. There are also two other fairs, held September 30, and November 8, for cattle, sheep, hogs, and pedlary ware.

Considerable quantities of fine white alabaster are found within a mile of Somerton, on the eastern side of the hill, above the hamlet of Hurcot.

About six miles from Somerton, we pass through the parish of STREET, the ancient Roman Strata Via from Glastonbury to Somerton and Ivelchester. This is one of the seven parishes which were secluded by King Ina from episcopal authority, and afterwards united by Bishop Brithelm to the jurisdiction of Glastonbury; to which monastery the manor, from very early times, belonged.

GLASTONBURY,

In the hundred of Glaston, five miles nearly south from Wells, and about seven from Somerton, is situated, in a low marshy country, almost in the centre of the county, on a spot once called *Ynyswytryn*, or the Glass Island; in Latin *Avalonia*. The town was built in the reign of King Ina, A.D. 708, and endowed with several privileges. About the year 873, it suffered much from the Danes, but was re-edified by Edmund, the ninth Saxon King. In 1184, the abbey and town were consumed by fire, and again rebuilt by King Henry III.; but, on the eleventh of September, 1276, it was once more destroyed by a dreadful earthquake, which precipitated the church of St. Michael from the Tor Hill. It at present consists of two principal streets, and comprehends two parishes, St. John the Baptist, and St. Benedict; each having a church, containing several ancient monuments. Not only the town, but the environs of Glastonbury, abound with religious reliques. The most conspicu-

ous is the *Tor*, or Tower of St. Michael, standing upon a very high hill, north-east of the town. On this bleak and desolate spot the Saints Phaganus and Diruvianus erected a small oratory to the honour of St. Michael the archangel. After the earthquake in 1276, mentioned above, the church was erected, of which the tower still remains, lifting its head to the clouds; an object of admiration to travellers, and an ornament to the surrounding country. At the west end of it is the carved figure of St. Michael the archangel, holding in his hand a pair of scales, in one of which is the Bible, in the other a devil, with another devil hanging by it, striving to make weight, but both are too light.

According to the legendary traditions, Joseph of Arimathea was sent into Britain by St. Peter, to convert the natives, and he took up his residence at Glastonbury. After the death of Joseph and his companions, the people, for want of pastors, returned to their idolatry, and Christianity was nearly forgotten when Phaganus and Diruvianus, sent by Pope Eleutherius, arrived. These men soon converted King Lucius, and most of his subjects, and in travelling about they by chance arrived at Glastonbury; where, finding the chapel built by Joseph and his followers, they obtained it of the king, and appointed twelve of their number to reside there. This society was at length brought into a more regular form by St. Patrick, the Irish apostle, who instructed them in the monastic discipline, and became their first abbot, in which office he continued thirty-nine years: St. Dunstan afterwards introduced amongst them the rules of the order of St. Benedict.

In the year of our Lord 708, King Ina pulled down the old monastery, and, according to the monkish historians, rebuilt it in the most sumptuous and magnificent manner, adorning the edifice with a costly chapel, garnished and plated it over with two thousand six hundred and forty pounds weight of silver, and presented it with an altar, of two hundred and sixty-four

pounds weight of gold; besides which they add, he gave rich ornaments thereto, as chalice, censor, candlesticks, basins, buckets, images, and a pall for the altar, of incredible value, with precious gems for the embroidery of the celebrating robes. He also bestowed on the abbey a great extent of land, and valuable privileges and immunities. Succeeding monarchs, and other opulent and superstitious characters, continued to enrich and increase the revenues of this house by various grants, merely to obtain them a place of sepulture therein. It suffered, however, some terrible reverses during the depredations of the Danes, as well as by the earthquake of 1276. At the time of the Conquest, it possessed lands of immense value, many of which were seized by the Conqueror, though he still left the monks forty-one manors in this county. At the dissolution of monasteries, Richard Whiting was the sixtieth and last Abbot of Glastonbury; and he being unwilling to surrender his abbey to the King, was seized upon at his manor-house of Sharpham, A.D. 1539, and without much formal process dragged on a hurdle to the Torr Hill, where, without regard to his age or character, he was hanged, his head set upon the abbey gate, and his quarters sent to Wells, Bath, Ivelchester, and Bridgewater. Besides being chief of the most ancient abbey in England, the abbot was always a member of the upper house of convocation, and a parliamentary baron, being summoned by a particular writ to sit among the elders and barons of the realm. His abbey was a kind of well-disciplined court, whither the sons of noblemen and gentlemen were sent for virtuous education, and returned thence excellently accomplished. After this manner Abbot Whiting bred up near three hundred pupils, besides others of a meaner rank, whom he fitted for the universities at home. His table, attendants, and officers, were numerous. He is said to have entertained five hundred persons of fashion at one time; and upon Wednesdays and Fridays, weekly, all the poor of the county were relieved by his parti-

cular charity, and when he went abroad (which he seldom did but to national synods, general chapters, and parliamentary conventions), he was attended by upwards of one hundred persons. The fate of the abbot and abbey being thus decided, the buildings and revenues of this house, which had flourished for such a length of time, became the objects of depredation, and the estates of the monastery devolving to the Crown, were granted or sold away.

Most of the buildings in the town of Glastonbury exhibit some marks of antiquity, and even such as are of modern erection are decorated with the spoils of the Abbey. That which is now called the *Abbey-house*, was constructed out of the ruins of the Abbot's lodging, and exhibits a multitude of escutcheons, devices, and ornaments in relief. What was once the front gate of the abbey, is become an inn, as is also an hospital for the entertainment of pilgrims, situated northward from the Market Cross. The front of the latter is most elaborately and curiously ornamented, and has niches and canopies for images in abundance. Two hospitals for poor and infirm people, whose benefactors were abbots of this place, and two chapels, said to have been erected by the same personages, still subsist. Relics of other ancient buildings are too numerous to be detailed. "The foundation plot of this immense fabric (including the several offices, &c.,) occupied an area of sixty acres; but, except St. Joseph's Chapel, the Abbot's Kitchen, and some large fragments of the Church, this space now contains little else but rubbish. The nave of the church, from St. Joseph's chapel to the cross, was two hundred and eighty feet; each transept forty-five, and the choir one hundred and fifty-five feet in length. The chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea, contiguous to the western end, measures one hundred and ten feet in length, and twenty-four in breadth. Adjoining to the south side was the cloister, which formed a square of two hundred and twenty feet. There were five chapels, (in addition to that already mentioned,) com-

municating with the church, and some remains of these may still be seen.

"St. Joseph's Chapel is pretty entire, excepting the roof and floor, and must be admired for the richness of the finishing, as well as the great elegance of the design. Its style is mixed Alglo Norman or Saxon, as it is commonly called, and partly Gothic; both perfect in their kind; a range of windows rather loftily placed, surround the building. The little ornamented cornices edging the arches of the windows, are in the zig-zag manner, and of what is called *raised work*, that is, separated from the mass of stone by the labour of the chisel. The light is admitted through these perforations, which throw an unequalled degree of lightness and elegance over the whole structure. In the northern entrance the builder seems to have exerted all his skill. The returning archways are supported by slender pillars, surmounted by magnificent capitals; the mouldings separated by four compartments of costly carving, exhibiting running patterns of foliage and fruit, tendrils and flowers entwining each other in the richest profusion. A handsome crypt runs round the eastern part of the chapel. The communication with the church was by a spacious portal; there are doors to the north and south besides; one is ornamented with flower-work and history, the other with very elaborate flourishes and figures. The arches of the windows (of which there are six on each side) are pointed; underneath appear compartments of interlaced zig-zag arches of five pillars, and some others in a different style, their spandrils adorned with roses, crescents, and stars. Large stones falling in from above, have damaged the floor so much that a great part of it has sunk into the vault below, which was turned upon arches that were groined and pointed. At the south-east corner of this vault is an arched way, said to lead to the Torr, and, we were informed, this has been traced to some distance, but it is most probable that the whole was intended to be a repository for the

dead. Many leaden coffins have been taken up here, and may be seen in different parts of the town, serving for cisterns.—The ivy, with which the walls of the chapel are most exuberantly covered, gives them a truly venerable and interesting effect. Two of the pillars that supported the tower, with part of the arch, and a few fragments of the south walls of the choir, are the whole of the conventual church now standing. There is a sufficient specimen of the workmanship, however, in the arches of the windows, to authorize a belief that this edifice was in the best style of the early Gothic."

"The Abbot's kitchen is octagonal, four of the angles being filled with fire-places, each of which measures 16 feet in length, and has an inclined chimney, the smoke passing out at a double octangular vent, that crowns a pyramidal roof of the same number of sides. The stones of the pyramid are all cut slanting with the same bevils to throw off the rain. This curious and durable structure is said to have been built in Henry VIIIth's time; Mr. Grose thought it not so modern."

There are eight carved ribs in the interior of this kitchen which also support the vault, and eight funnels for letting out the steam through the windows. Within this pyramid there is one of lesser size, in which was hung the bell whose chime was the signal for collecting the poor at the adjoining almonry, now in ruins, on the north side of the kitchen. The stones of the pyramid are all cut in a slanting direction, in such a way as to throw off the rain. Beneath the ruins of this monastery history informs us many kings, nobles, and prelates, were buried; though their monuments are all defaced or demolished. Among them it would be an unpardonable neglect not to mention the name of the illustrious British King Arthur, who having met his death at the fatal battle of Camlan, was brought here and buried in front of the high altar, where he reposed, undisturbed, neglected, and unknown, for a period of many ages. A tradition,

however, of his death, had fortunately been preserved among the British Bards who had fled to the mountainous districts of Wales after the Saxon conquest. One of these poets happened to discover the secret in a legend which he had the honour of reciting to Henry the Second. The monarch ordered the spot described in the poem to be opened, when at a distance of seven feet from the surface, a plate with the following inscription appeared:—

> "Hic jacet sepultus inclitus Rex Arturius in insula Avalonia."

Encouraged by this they continued their search, and found, at the depth of nine feet further, the hallowed trunk of an oak tree, containing the gigantic bones of the British king, who is justly considered as one of the greatest and most accomplished monarchs.

The town of Glastonbury contains several places of worship for Protestant Dissenters.

The environs, as well as the town itself, abound with striking remains. Of these the most conspicuous is the *Tor*, or Tower of St. Michael, a short way to the north-east of the monastery. The first erection upon this hill was a small oratory, the work of the Saints Phaganus and Duruvianus, which was dedicated to the honour of St. Michael. This was rebuilt by St. Patrick, and adorned by several of his successors. In latter times not only a church and monastery were added to the original building, but several dwelling-houses and offices were erected around it. At last in the year 1271, these structures were thrown from their lofty foundation by an earthquake. But though erected anew in a more splendid style, none remain at present except the tower. The appearance of this Tor, rearing its lofty head above the clouds, is very grand and impressive as viewed by the traveller from the plain below. It is much admired also as a specimen of architectural antiquity. At the west end of it, there is a carved figure of St. Michael the Archangel, holding in his hand a pair of

scales, in one of which there is a Bible, and in the other scale a Devil, assisted by an Imp in pressing upon the scales; both, however, are represented as much too light to weigh down the holy volume. To the south-west of the town is *Weary All Hill*, which, according to the monkish chronicles, derived its name from St. Joseph and his companions resting here when much fatigued in travelling through the country during their pious mission in England. Here they say St. Joseph fixed his staff which immediately took root, and ever after put forth its leaves on Christmas day. It had, till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, two distinct trunks, when one of them was destroyed by a Puritan; the other met the same fate during the great rebellion. The blossoms of this tree were esteemed such great curiosities as to become an object of gain to the merchants of Bristol, who exported them to different parts of Europe. Besides the holy thorn, there also grew in the abbey church-yard a miraculous walnut tree, which never budded before the eleventh of June, the feast of St. Barnabas. This is also gone: these trees were visited as sacred by all ranks of people, and James the First and his noble attendants are said to have given considerable remunerations for sprigs of them. But even so late as 1751, a man named Matthew Chancellor, a parishioner of North Wooton, by pretending to a vision respecting a miraculous spring of water near the Chain Gate, succeeded in drawing great numbers of people to Glastonbury from all parts of the kingdom, so that at one time there were not less than ten thousand strangers in the town and its neighbourhood. However, after staying a few months, most of these pilgrims found themselves relieved of their money, but not of their disorders, and returned home deprecating their own folly and too easy belief.

William of Malmsbury asserts, that several pyramids used to stand in the abbey church-yard at Glastonbury, in front of the Sarcophagus of King Arthur. That nearest the church was twenty-six feet high,

and consisted of five courses or stories. In the upper story was the figure of a bishop; in the second that of a king, with the inscription HER SEXE, and BLISWERTH. In the third the names WEMERESSTE, BANTOMP, &c., with others not less barbarous upon the rest of the columns or pyramids. HADDE is called Episcopus; but BREGORTED, and BEORWALDE, are said to have been early Abbots.

A flat road intersecting what for the most part was formerly nothing but a spongy moor, stretches in nearly a straight line from Glastonbury to Wells, but affords no object of peculiar interest or curiosity.

THE CITY OF WELLS,

In the hundred of Wells Forum, at the southern foot of the great mountainous forest of Mendip, 19 miles south-west from Bath, the same distance south from Bristol, and 20 from Bridgewater, receives its name from a remarkable spring called St. Andrew's Well, vulgarly Bottomless Well, which rises near the Bishop's Palace, and, flowing in a copious stream, surrounds that structure with its waters, and thence transmits them through the south-west parts of the town.

The city is small, compact, and in general well-built and neatly paved. It is divided into four verderies, or wards, each of which is superintended by two verderers, or petty constables. The market-place, on the east side of the city, is wide and airy. Near the site of an ancient cross is the City Conduit, an elegant modern structure, "which, however, would have been a great ornament to the place had a slight alteration been made in its plan. It is a conduit rising on the spot where a beautiful hexagonal building of the same nature, erected by Bishop Beckington, previously stood. The taste and design of it are, in my opinion, faultless; but its shape, which is triangular, gives it a sort of thinness highly disagreeable to the eye."

The city was first incorporated by Reginald Fitz-

Joceline, in the time of Richard I., and afterwards the charter was confirmed by King John, who, in the eighth year of his reign, erected the city into a free borough. It was then styled the Master and Commonalty of the Borough of Wells; but in the 31st of Elizabeth it was incorporated by the name of the Mayor, Masters, and Burgesses of the City of Wells, and was to consist of a mayor, recorder, seven masters, a common-clerk, and sixteen common-councilmen; whereof the mayor, recorder, and one of the masters, were to be justices of the peace in the said corporation, and the mayor and recorder to be of the quorum.

This city has sent representatives to parliament from the 26th Edward I.; they are chosen by the mayor and commonalty.

Ina, King of the West Saxons, in the year 704, founded a collegiate church here, and about 200 years afterwards, one of the bishops, consecrated by Phlegmund, archbishop of Canterbury, was appointed over King Ina's College, at Wells, and the province of Somerset was assigned him for his diocese and seat of jurisdiction.

In the year 1087, John de Villula, the then bishop, being strongly attached to the city of Bath, where he derived his early fortune in the practice of physic, determined to fix his pontifical seat there. In this design he was encouraged by the monks of Bath, who petitioned him to unite the abbey and bishopric, and gave him 500 marks, with which he purchased the whole city, and then, renouncing Wells, assumed the title of Bishop of Bath. After this, great contentions arose between the people of Bath and Wells, which of those cities should be honoured with the episcopal seat, which were at length settled by the bishop's arbitration; who ordained that in future the bishops should be styled Bishops of Bath and Wells; that each of the churches, when the see was vacant, should appoint an equal number of delegates, by whose votes

the bishop should be chosen, and that he should be installed both at Bath and Wells.

The Cathedral is at the eastern extremity of the city; and the greater part of it as it now stands, was built in the year 1239, by Bishop Joceline de Wells, in the form of a cross, having a noble square tower, which rises at the intersection of the transepts with the body of the church, and two other towers, lower and of smaller dimensions, springing at the north and south sides of the west end. Having been built at different periods, some little dissimilarity of architecture occurs. The heavy hand of the Saxon artist may be discovered in the eastern members, whilst the western parts display a magnificent example of the richest and most superb masonry of the thirteenth century. The ornaments here consist of Gothic canopies, or niches, of light and airy design, supported by slender shafts of Purbeck marble, enriched with costly capitals, running in horizontal ranges one above another, round the whole western end and its accompanying towers. In these are placed the statues of the apostles and other dignified personages. The figures of the apostles occupy the highest tier of these recesses. The lowest line of sculpture exhibits a whimsical specimen of Gothic taste in the way of design: the general resurrection is the subject; but the grotesque and monstrous appearance of the figures, which are starting from their temporary mansions of dust, evinces that the artist had not considered it with adequate seriousness.

"The multiplicity of figures which decorate the western end of Wells Cathedral, the beauty of the niches wherein they stand enshrined, the light appearance of the pillars, detached from the wall, and from each other, combine to form the most splendid and agreeable example of Gothic architecture."

The internal parts of the cathedral are of a more heavy character.

"Bishops and dignitaries occupy in profusion the

consecrated dust covered by this noble pile, most of the internal decorations of which consist of monumental erections to their memory. Here Ina, of legislative fame, the first founder of the church, is said to repose.

"The northern transept contains a curious old specimen of the art of clock-making. It is a dial, constructed by a monk of Glastonbury, called Peter Lightfoot, about the year 1325, of complicated design and ingenious execution. On its face the changes of the moon and other astronomical particulars are contrived to be represented, and an horizontal framework, at the summit of the dial, exhibits, by the aid of machinery, a party of knights armed for the tournament, pursuing each other on horseback with a rapid rotatory motion.

"Connected with the Cathedral is the Chapter-House, an octagonal building, remarkable only for the beautiful clustered shaft of Purbeck marble, which, rising from the centre of the area, ramifies above into many slender ribs supporting the roof of the edifice."

"The external appearance of the Bishop's Palace, with its battlements and moats, its gates and redoubts, convey the idea of the sullen retreat of an ancient feudal chieftain, rather than what it really is, the elegant mansion of courtesy and literary taste."—*Warner's Walk.*

The number of inhabitants in the City of Wells, according to the last returns, are 5,156, occupying 852 houses. The summer assizes for the county are held here alternately with Taunton and Bridgewater. The markets are on Wednesday and Saturday.

Five miles from Wells, under the north side of Mendip Hills, is EMBROW, a small parish, situated on elevated ground, in the three several hundreds of Chewton, Whitston, and Kilmersdon. There were formerly mines of coal and lapis calaminaris in this parish, but the working of them has been for some time discontinued. On the south side of the turnpike-

road, at the bottom of a steep declivity, is a fine lake, called by the different names of Embarrow and Leachmoor Pond, containing nearly twelve acres. It lies in a vale extending almost east and west, with a beautiful plantation of firs, beeches, and sycamores, on the slopes of the hills on each side. On the eastern boundary is a small cottage, and a boat-house; at the west end is a marsh, and below that another smaller lake.

Several Roman silver coins have been dug up in this parish.

CHILCOMPTON

Is a small parish, about three miles from Embrow, situated partly on the turnpike-road, and partly in a rich woody vale, which extends northward to Midsummer Norton. At the head of the valley, near some romantic and wild rocks, several springs arise, forming, at a little distance from their source, a small rivulet, which, in passing through the village, is intersected by many artificial falls, and has a very pleasing appearance.

The marl grass (trifolium alpestre of Linnæus and Hudson) now so generally known, owes its origin to an inhabitant of this parish, who collected the seeds from the meres which formerly divided the several properties, and increased his store from year to year, so as to be able, at last, to sell it in large quantities, when its cultivation became general.

About a mile south of this village, is an ancient Roman encampment, upon an elevated spot, called Blacker's Hill, near Stock Hill Coal-work. It is formed by the meeting of two very deep and steep-sided valleys in a point facing the south, and partly by a curvilinear double rampart and foss to the north and east, of which the greater part is entire, and the whole in good preservation. Its figure altogether is that of an irregular quadrant, and the area contains about 15 acres.

On that part of the Old Down which is nearest this

camp, are several tumuli, or barrows, and several pieces of old swords have been dug up.

Two miles from Chilcompton, we enter the hundred of Willow, near the pleasant village of FOXCOTE, or Fosscot, situated on the slope of a little eminence, rising out of a deep vale, well wooded, and abounding with orchards, situated near the Fosse-road, as its name implies. There is scarcely an acre of level ground in this parish, all being irregularly picturesque and pleasingly romantic. A rivulet from Radstock runs through the valley towards Wellow, having a small stone bridge over it.

The next parish is CAMERTON, near the Fosse-road, six miles from Bath. That part of it which was in ancient times principally inhabited was its western and south-western extremity. Near the fosse have been found some large bones, and part of a tesselated pavement.

The church is a handsome Gothic structure, containing several curious tombs.

Mr. Collinson describes the Church-yard as one of the prettiest in the kingdom, rendered so by the proprietor of a neighbouring mansion: the tombs are almost hid by laurels, arbor-vitæs, and roses; the walls of the church are covered with ivy and pyracanthas.

The adjoining parish of DUNKERTON lies in a deep valley, on the Fosse-road. The name is derived from Dun, *a hill*, Carn, *a monument of stones*, and Ton, *a town;* there being at some little distance north-east from the church, a remarkable eminence, called Duncombe Hill, whereon once stood a *carnedd*, or hill of stones, erected by our British ancestors, to commemorate some victory or extraordinary event.

The next village of COMBE-HAY is situated on the verge of a rich comb, or valley, surrounded by a most delightful and highly cultivated country. Between the village and the present road from Bath to Wells, the Roman fosse is seen in its original and perfect

form, being raised very high, with a deep fosse, or ditch, on either side.

Between Combe-Hay and Bath is the pleasant village of South Stoke, in the neighbourhood of which is MIDFORD CASTLE, a modern edifice, built by Henry Disney Roebuck, Esq. The construction is singular, being triangular, with the angles rounded off, and embattled at the top: the grounds are beautifully laid out, and the surrounding scenery highly picturesque and romantic.

BATH,

One of the most celebrated cities in the kingdom, as well for the elegance of its buildings, as the salubrity of the air, and beauty of the adjacent country, is a place of very considerable antiquity, and is said to have flourished long before the Romans invaded this island. Ptolemy mentions it under the name of "*Waters of the Sun.*" Camden says, the ancient Britons called it *Yr Ennaint Twymin;* but he does not explain the meaning, which is, the *Warm* or *Hot Bath.* It was likewise called *Caer Badon*, that is, the *City of Bath*, the very name it now bears.

When the Romans were in this island, they had a military station at Bath, and soon discovered the healing virtues of its waters; but in the subsequent wars between the Saxons and Britons, the place was long neglected: although it appears to have been known to these Invaders, who called it *Acmannesceaster*, which Camden and Bishop Gibson both interpret *The City of Valetudinarians.*

The great King Arthur fought many battles near this place. When the power of the West Saxons preponderated, it made part of their kingdom, and here they built several churches and monasteries, which were afterwards utterly destroyed by the Danes. It assumed new splendour under the reign of Edgar, who, in 973, was consecrated with great solemnity in the Church of St. Peter. This monarch endowed the

city with divers valuable privileges, erecting it into a free borough, granting it a market and liberty of coinage, and exempting it from taxes. From this time till the reign of William Rufus, the place continued to flourish; but towards the latter end of that Prince's reign, many of the West-country people took up arms, having been greatly distressed by the forest laws, and in their progress they burnt and destroyed this city. It was afterwards rebuilt: and, in 1137, the foundation of the present cathedral was laid by Dr. Oliver King, then bishop of this see, but he did not live to see it completed. Adjoining to the church was a large monastery; but no other remains of it are now to be seen, except a gate-house, let out in lodgings by the chapter.

On the spot where the cathedral stands, the Romans had a temple dedicated to the goddess Minerva, as appears from inscriptions on two stones dug up near the place, and affixed to the eastern wall of the church,

In the year 1687, when James II. had, by proclamation, abolished the penal laws against Popery, he made a progress into the West of England, accompanied by his Queen, and they lodged some weeks in the Gate-house of the abbey belonging to the cathedral. During their stay at Bath, the queen first declared herself pregnant of that child, whose pretensions to the crown of England afterwards occasioned the ruin of many noble and reputable families in different parts of the kingdom.

The city of Bath was anciently encompassed with a stone wall, the foundation of which is attributed to Julius Agricola, when lieutenant in Britain, under the Emperor Vespasian. A small part of it is still standing, and called the Borough-wall. That it was founded by the Romans, is incontestible, from the great number of stones, with Roman inscriptions, which are still to be seen in the lower part of the wall, as well as others with figures carved upon them.

In this wall were formerly four gates and a postern, all of which were taken down some years ago. The gates were, the North-gate, at the entrance from the London road; the West-gate, a handsome stone structure, in which some of the royal family lodged; the South-gate, which led to the bridge over the Avon; and the East-gate, leading to a ferry over the same river.

In the year 1755, when the abbey-house was taken down, in order to erect another, the workmen discovered the foundations of several Roman baths, all of which were constructed according to the best rules in architecture, and surrounded with bricks of a very hard and durable nature. Under the head of *Antiquities*, we shall give a more ample account of the Roman remains discovered in this city. And proceeding to describe the present state of Bath, we shall commence with those public buildings which naturally attract the attention of the traveller.

The cathedral Church of St. Peter and Paul, commonly called the Abbey, (supposed to be built on the spot where stood the Roman temple of Minerva, who was the tutelar deity of the hot-springs), is a noble edifice, built in the shape of a cross, and founded in the year 676, by King Osric, together with the abbey-house, for nuns; but, in the year 775, King Offa placed therein secular canons, who being expelled by King Edgar, he instituted Benedictine monks in their stead; and it was frequently repaired and augmented, till Oliver King began the present pile, which was occasioned by a vision, or dream of his, as related by Sir John Harrington: "The bishop," says he, "having been at Bath, imagined, as he one night lay meditating in his bed, that he saw the Holy Trinity, with angels, ascending and descending by a ladder, near to which was a fair olive-tree supporting a crown." The impression was so strong, that the bishop thought he heard a voice, which said, "Let an Olive establish the crown, and let a King restore the church." This had such an

effect upon the good prelate, that he instantly formed a design to rebuild the church of St. Peter and Paul. Accordingly he set the work immediately in hand, and, as Sir John concludes, caused his vision to be represented on the west front of it, under the title of "*De sursum est.*" "It is from on high." The pious bishop was prevented from completing this work by death; and upon the dissolution of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII. this church, coming into the possession of the Crown, and the townsmen refusing to purchase it of the King's commissioners for 500 marks, it was entirely stripped of the lead, glass, iron, timber, and other materials; in which condition, with only the bare walls standing, it remained till 1606, when it was restored to its present state by Dr. James Montague, then bishop of the diocese, and other generous benefactors, and made parochial. The west front of this elegant structure, is enriched with several statues, besides a representation of the vision of Oliver King, as above related. It contains many curious monuments, has a handsome alter-piece, representing the Wise Men's Offering, given in the year 1725, by General Wade, one of the representatives of this city; and an excellent organ, thought by very good judges to be one of the best in Europe. This church was formerly called the *Lantern of England,* on account of the number and size of its windows; but, as it is now enclosed by houses to the north and south, the light is much intercepted. It is a stately and elegant structure, and affords the curious stranger as much speculation as any parochial church of the same standing in England.

The tower (which is 162 feet high) has an excellent peal of ten bells. The length from east to west is 210 feet, and from north to south, 126; the breadth of the body and side aisles, is 72 feet, and the windows are fifty-two in number. Here divine service is performed every day, at eleven in the forenoon, and at four in the afternoon; which was set on foot, and

is supported, by the voluntary subscriptions of the company resorting to Bath; it being thought necessary that prayers should be performed daily at one of the places of religious worship in this city.

The several parishes in Bath, are consolidated into one rectory, in the gift of the corporation, with the vicarage of Lyncombe and Widcombe, annexed to it.

The parish church of St. James was rebuilt (chiefly by voluntary subscription) in 1768 and 1769, under the direction, and agreeable to the plan of Mr. Palmer, of this city, architect, and is a very neat freestone building, with fronts in the Gothic taste. The ground-plan is a parallelogram of sixty-one feet long, by fifty-eight wide, within the walls; the roof is supported by four Ionic columns; the ceiling is divided into three parts; the middle finished with an entablature and coving, and the two sides with an architrave only, of the Ionic order. The altar forms a niche, set round with columns and pilasters, with a Doric entablature. The tower has a peal of eight musical bells. In 1782, a new and excellent organ was erected in this church, by Mr. Seed of Bristol. Here is divine service on Sundays, and prayers on Wednesday and Friday mornings, and Saturday afternoon; and morning prayers on saints' days.

The church dedicated to St. Michael was begun to be rebuilt about the year 1734, and finished in 1742, at the expense of the inhabitants; towards which the late General Wade largely contributed. It is finished in the Doric order, with a fine dome, and is a very neat church in the inside, having a painting of our Saviour, and another of Moses, over the altar; the former by Mr. Hoare of this city, and the latter by Mr. Robinson of London. It has a musical peal of eight bells, and an organ. Here is divine service as often as at St. James's.

The parish church of Walcot, which stands within the liberties of this city, was rebuilt in the year 1780,

and has been since very much enlarged on account of the great increase of the inhabitants: it is a neat church, and has a good organ.

St. Michael's Chapel, near the Cross-Bath, has annexed to it an hospitable, or almshouse, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, called the Blue Alms Charity, founded in the reign of Henry II. by Reginald Fitz-Joceline, then bishop of the see, who gave an estate, called St. John's Farm, then valued at about 60*l.* a year, for the support of six aged poor men, and six aged poor women of this city, and a master, who must be a clergyman of the established church. These poor people have separate apartments, and an allowance of 4*s.* 2*d.* a week each. The almshouse was taken down in the year 1728, and rebuilt at the expense of the late Duke of Chandos, in consideration of some advantages he received in erecting Chandos Court. The farm has been so much improved by being let out on building leases, that it is supposed the annual rents much exceed 10,000*l.* a year; and the fines constantly paying for renewals, (which the master has the exclusive privilege of granting, and of which he receives one moiety, and the co-brethren and sisters the other moiety, in equal portions) make the mastership equal, in point of profit, to most ecclesiastical benefices. There is divine service twice a day in this chapel.

The little chapel dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, situated under Beechen-Cliff, is in the gift of the Lord Chancellor. Here is divine service every Sunday, performed by the curate of the Abbey. Adjoining is an hospital belonging to it, for idiots, which was rebuilt in 1761.

There are, besides, several other places of divine worship in this city, for the use of dissenters.

In January 1785, a subscription was set on foot, by Henry Southby, Esq. for establishing Sunday-schools in this city, for the children of the poor who have no other means of learning their religious and

social duties. In a few weeks, a sufficient sum was raised to carry into effect the beneficent plan.

The old Guildhall, which was built after a plan of the celebrated Inigo Jones, was situated in the High-street, between the present Green-market and the Christopher Inn; but the corporation finding this hall and its offices too small, and its situation very inconvenient for carriages passing through the city, resolved to erect a new one on the east side of High-street; and the first stone was laid by the mayor, attended by the rest of the corporation, on the 11th of February, 1766. In this hall a court of record is held every Monday, which takes cognizance of all personal actions within the city, or its liberties. Of this court the town-clerk is the prothonotary, and the serjeants at mace, for the time being, the attorneys. There is also a Court of Requests, for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts within the city and liberties.

Here are several handsome edifices erected for charitable purposes, among which is a Free Grammar School, situated in Broad-street, where youth are qualified for the University. It was originally founded and endowed by King Edward VI. The present building was begun in the year 1752.

There is also a Charity-school in this city, first founded in the year 1711, and begun, and for some years carried on, by the interest and unwearied endeavours of that eminent pattern of learning and piety, Robert Nelson, esq. who engaged Dean Willis (afterwards Bishop of Winchester), and several other persons of distinction, to assist him in this arduous and charitable undertaking. It was rebuilt by subscription, and the corporation liberally contributed towards it, as well by their subscriptions, as by a grant of the ground on which the present school is erected; and on the 12th of October, 1721, the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Hoare, on which was the following inscription: "God's Providence is our Inheritance."

Here are several alms-houses, the principal of which is that called Ruscot's Charity, where twenty-four poor aged persons of both sexes are maintained and clothed.

In 1738, a Public Infirmary was erected here by voluntary subscription. It is capable of holding upwards of a hundred patients who are freely admitted from all parts of the kingdom; and the same benevolence and generosity which first accomplished the work yet continues to support it for the relief of the indigent and afflicted.

Besides this, here are two other hospitals, the first of which is called Bellot's Hospital, and was founded by Thomas Bellott, Esq. (one of the executors of Lord Cecil) in the reign of King James I. This charity is under the guardianship of the corporation, and is adapted for the use of poor men only, who come to this city for the benefit of the hot waters. The number admitted seldom exceeds eighteen, who have the liberty of bathing gratis, besides lodging and an allowance of 1*s.* 10*d.* per week each person.

The other hospital was instituted in the year 1747, for the laudable purpose of supplying the poor of this city (who have no relief from their parishes) with medicines, physical advice, and such other necessaries as their unhappy cases may require. This charitable foundation is called the Pauper Scheme, and is wholly supported by voluntary contributions.

Besides the charitable institutions before-mentioned, there is a General Hospital in this city, open to the sick and poor of every part of the world, to whose cases the Bath waters are applicable. It is an excellent institution, supported by voluntary contributions, and considerably more than a hundred patients receive every convenience, comfort, and advice, that their conditions may require. It is an elegant pile of building, 110 feet in breadth, and ninety in depth. The first stone was laid on the 8th of July, 1738, at the north-east corner of the building, by the Right Hon. William Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath.

For many centuries, the City of Bath was the asylum only of the sick, and its old inhabitants aimed at nothing more than to render the place comfortable to them. But since the spirit of improvement has shewed itself, it now can boast of being the most convenient, best built, and most elegant city in Europe.

Among the elegant buildings added to this city within the present century, are those which form a plan designed by the ingenious Mr. Wood. The King's Circus is of a circular form, and esteemed one of the most elegant piles in England, the houses being all uniform and of one size: the front is adorned with three rows of pilasters, the first Doric, the second Ionic, and the third Corinthian, the whole forming a most beautiful appearance.

Queen's-square is on the north-west of the city, and is enclosed with rails, having a fine chapel for divine service.

The whole square, by its uniformity, has the appearance of one house, though it is divided into several, and is 520 feet in front, and 260 in depth. Each front has sixty-three windows, and each end thirty-one. Two of the other sides serve as wings to the principal side, each of which contains twenty-four houses upon a perfect square of 210 feet; and the front of these wings have each twenty-five windows, so that, when the whole building is surveyed in front, it shews 113 windows, extending 1,040 feet, and from the neighbouring hills looks like one grand palace.

The Crescent is a very handsome pile of building, in the form of a half circle. The houses are all uniform, lofty, and finished with the greatest elegance.

Near the Avon, on the south side of the city, is another elegant square, built in an oblong form, being in length 500 feet, and 250 in breadth. The bridge over the Avon, at this place, is 120 feet in length, supported by a single arch.

Since the Royal Crescent was finished, another elegant pile of buildings has been completed and inhabited, called Catharine-place, situated behind

Brook-street, in a very airy and healthy situation. Also, another crescent of elegant and spacious houses, called Lansdown Crescent, and a third crescent called Camden Place; all commanding prospects equally beautiful, if not as extensive, as any in the kingdom.

At the entrance from London, are several new and capital piles of buildings, some of which are yet unfinished, called Grosvenor Buildings, Kensington Place, Piccadilly, &c.

Sydney Garden Vauxhall, is situated at the termination of Great Pulteney-street. It was opened for public entertainment on the 11th May, 1795. The Kennet and Avon Canal runs through the gardens, with two elegant cast-iron bridges thrown over it, in the manner of the Chinese. These gardens command beautiful and romantic views, and are free from dust in summer and dirt in winter.

Near the abbey church was a pleasant walk, formerly called the Grove, but now made into a square, and named after the late Prince of Orange, who visited Bath, when he came to England to espouse the Princess Royal, daughter of his late Majesty George II. While his Highness was here, he received great benefit from the waters; in memory whereof, a pillar is erected in the centre with a Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:

"The Prince of Orange was happily restored to health, by drinking the waters of Bath, through favour of God, and to the extreme joy of Britain, 1735."

All these new buildings are of free-stone, dug out of the neighbouring hills, and though not so hard as that of Portland, it is equally, if not more, useful for modern structures; for, being softer, it does not require so much labour to reduce it to a proper form.—We have, in our article upon the mineralogy of the county, particularly described this beautiful stone.

The new and very elegant Theatre is in every respect

commensurate with the magnificence and beauty of the town. There are also several sets of Assembly Rooms, of adequate dimensions, regulated by a master of the ceremonies, whose office is become as profitable as honourable. The celebrated Richard Nash, Esq., generally called *Beau Nash*, for a long time enjoyed this office, and indeed it is to him that it owes its present dignity.

The present masters of the ceremonies are for the upper assembly-rooms, J. Heaviside, esq.; Kingston assembly rooms, C. Marshall, esq.; city assemblies, Guildhall, W. Harris, esq.

The lower assembly rooms rented by Mr. Mills, have lately been much improved, particularly by a grand portico at the entrance. One part of these have been fitted-up for the Bath and West of England club, the other, equally superb, is dedicated to balls and concerts. The riding-schools afford numerous attractions in bad weather; but the tennis court near the upper riding school has been converted into a manufactory. The north and south parades are no longer the resort of fashion: the whole tide now runs from the upper part of Milsom Street, through Bond Street, and Union Street, to the pump-room, and this is the mid-day promenade of the fashionable visitants. The libraries which are numerous, and well filled, merit all the encouragement they have met with.

The government of the city was originally vested in a sheriff; the first that appears to have borne this office was Ælfrid, who died A. D. 907. In the 32d year of Queen Elizabeth, a charter was obtained, declaring Bath a sole city of itself, and the citizens to be incorporated by the name of the mayor, aldermen, and citizens of Bath; and at present the city is governed by a mayor, recorder, and aldermen, besides twenty common-council; the number of aldermen (out of which the mayor and two justices are chosen) is not to exceed ten, nor be less than four, and a town-clerk; from among the common-council (except the senior, who is always chamberlain) are

yearly chosen two bailiffs or sheriffs, and two constables. The representatives in parliament for the city are elected by the corporation.

The principal markets are kept on Wednesdays and Saturdays, plentifully supplied with every kind of provisions, and generally at moderate prices.

The markets for fish are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and are thought to excel those of any inland town of the kingdom, as well in the goodness as the quantity of the sea fish brought to it, and the fresh-water fish daily taken from the river Avon.

We shall now describe the several public baths; the King's bath rises about 152 feet south-west of the Abbey Church; the spring or main source of which is in the centre, and covered over with a large leaden reservoir, to restrain its rapid motion, and to disperse the water more equally to the different parts of the bath, as well as to receive the pipes of the different pumps, which supply the water for drinking; by which means, as the water flows upward in a strong, large, and uninterrupted stream, all communication between the water used for drinking, and the water in the bath, is prevented. Once in three or four years this reservoir is opened, in order to clear it of a sandy substance, which the water brings up and deposits there, and which, if suffered to accumulate, would choak the ends of the pipes which supply the different pumps. The Hot and Cross Baths have each a reservoir, of nearly the same construction; but we cannot find that it is ever necessary to open them on the same account, or that any substance of this kind was ever found in them. The springs were doubtless separated from the common springs by the Romans, and secured with a strong durable wall.

The dimensions of the King's Bath are sixty-five feet ten inches, by forty feet ten inches, and it contains 346 tons, two hogsheads, and twenty-six gallons of water, when filled to its usual height. In the centre of this bath is erected an elegant building of free-stone, with recesses and seats for the accommo-

dation of ladies and gentlemen who bathe, and round it is built a covering supported by a handsome colonnade in the Doric order, that bathers may be sheltered from the inclemency of the weather.

This bath is now very much improved in every department, and the whole has been conducted under the inspection of the principal medical gentlemen resident in this city. Adjoining to this bath are two rooms, one for ladies, the other for gentlemen, in which are pumps for pouring the hot water on any part of the body affected, which has often proved more salutary than bathing the whole body in the common bath.

On the north side of the King's Bath is the Pump-Room, erected in the year 1704, and greatly enlarged in 1751. In this room the nobility and gentry assemble every morning, during the season, between the hours of seven and ten, to drink the waters. A good band of music, whose pay is derived from the ball-subscriptions to the rooms, attends from eight till ten for the entertainment of the company, which is generally numerous, and make a very brilliant appearance. At the east end of this room, is a fine marble statue of the late Richard Nash, esq., executed by Mr. Hoare, at the expense of the corporation. There is also a good clock, given by the late Mr. Tompion. To this building, in 1786, was added a handsome portico, for the reception of chairs, that the company in the pump-room might not be incommoded by the clamours of the chairmen.

Adjoining the King's Bath, in Stall-street, are several elegant private baths, dry pump-rooms, sudatories, &c.

The Queen's Bath is only separated from the King's Bath by a wall. It has no springs, but receives its water from the King's Bath, by a communication through an open arched passage, so that the water is consequently not so hot.

The Cross Bath, which rises about 100 yards south-west of the former, was so called from a cross erected

in the centre of it, by the Earl of Melfort (secretary of state to King James II.) as a memorial of the queen bathing in it in the year 1687. This cross is now removed, the bath secured, the bathing rendered more convenient by slips for the bathers, and a small neat pump-room built, agreeably to the plans of Mr. Baldwin.

The Hot Bath, situated about 120 feet south-west of the former, is so called from its being deemed the hottest of all; though, from many late experiments, it has been declared to be nearly of the same degree of heat as the King's Bath. Here is a neat pump-room, for the company who drink this water; near which have been constructed, by the chamber of the city, a commodious open bath, private baths, dry pump-rooms, and sudatories, continually kept warm by the fires of the dressing-room; the sudatories may likewise be made use of for vapour bathing. The whole of the building is fifty-six feet square.

The time for bathing is in the morning, fasting, at all times of the year: because being refreshed by a night's sleep, we are the better able to bear bathing; and digestion being completed, we are not subject to disorders arising from crudities, as obstructions, head-aches, &c., and fasting too, because the natural heat being sent out towards the circumference by bathing, digestion would be disturbed were we to go in with a full stomach. A glass or two of the water may be taken in the bath, it being very refreshing, and not only quenches thirst, but also promotes perspiration afterwards. The time of staying in the bath must be regulated by the physician, according to the patient's strength or disorder. Before the patient goes into either of the baths, a due preparation is necessary; the blood-vessels should not be too full, and the *primæ viæ* should be cleansed; without which cautions, bathers are liable to head-aches, fevers, &c., and not only lose the benefit they came for, but return to their homes much worse than before.

These waters are beneficial in almost all chronical

distempers, and can hurt in none, except in hæmorrhage, inflammations, or bad lungs, unless they be overdosed in quantity, or too high or too hot a regimen be joined with them; for they are very grateful to the stomach, have a fine, sulphureous steely taste, like that of the German Spa, or Pyrmont, and procure a great appetite and good spirits, if cautiously managed; but, if high meat and strong liquors be indulged in, they create inflammatory disorders. They are of a strengthening, cleansing, attenuating, opening nature; they comfort the nerves, warm the body, and are good in all constitutions.

These waters are good in scorbutic rheumatism, and old wandering pains in any part of the body, by bathing and drinking, when the pains are not attended with any feverish heat. They are very beneficial in all disorders of the paralytic kind, in palsies, convulsions, contractions, rheumatism, and lameness of all kinds: the bilious cholic, in particular, is relieved by their use; as are also obstructions of the liver and spleen, jaundice, scurvy, loss of appetite, and hysteric and hypochondriac disorders, when proceeding from weakness of the stomach. They likewise remove all sorts of cutaneous disorders, particularly the leprosy, by washing off those malignant salts that occasion these maladies, when taken inwardly, and discharging them by perspiration in bathing: the sulphureous particles, too, in the water, entering into the skin, and dissolving the salts which are lodged near the surface. And it is the given opinion, if any of the preceding disorders fail of relief by the Bath water, it is because the patients will not allow sufficient time for their cure; or else are too unwilling to take pains, or cannot keep to such regular diet, as is absolutely necessary in stubborn cases.

The water should always be drunk hot from the pump. It is taken hot, for the sake of the volatile spirit that circulates in it, which, being of a like nature with the universal menstrum, or alkali in our

stomach, does wonderfully restore it, when lost or depraved. And it is somewhat strange to see its effects in the stomach, on decayed appetites, which are soon relieved by drinking the water hot from the pump. The water is generally drunk in the morning, fasting, between the hours of six and ten, that it may have time to pass out of the stomach; though some drink a glass about noon.

The quantity generally taken in a day is from one pint to three: few constitutions require more.

The spring which supplied the baths being cleared from the rubbish, &c., and the several ancient sewers for carrying off the water from the baths repaired, his Grace the late Duke of Kingston built on the same spot several baths and sudatories, upon a new plan, approved by some of the most eminent physicians, as well for the neatness and elegance of the design, as the utility of the several apartments.

The seasons for drinking the Bath water are the Spring and Autumn. The Spring season begins with April, and ends with June. The Autumn season begins with September, and lasts till December; and some patients remain here all the winter. In the spring this city is mostly frequented for health, and in the autumn for pleasure, when at least two thirds of the company come to partake of the amusements of the place.

The good qualities of the Bath waters, the beautiful situation of the place, and the salubrity of the air, are admirably described in a poem written by the late Mrs. Chandler, of which the following is an extract:—

"The mineral streams which from the baths arise
From noxious vapours clear the neighb'ring skies:
When fevers bore an epidemic sway,
Unpeopled towns, swept villages away;
While death abroad dealt terror and despair,
The plague but gently touch'd within their sphere.

"Blest source of health! seated on rising ground,
With friendly hills by nature guarded round;
From eastern blasts and sultry south secure,
The air's balsamic, and the soil is pure."

It has been calculated that a view of the curiosities, with the most interesting scenery in Bath, and its environs, may require about twelve or thirteen walks and rides. The first place of attraction immediately after breakfast, is a visit to the Great Pump Room, where no requisite is necessary beyond a decent or genteel appearance. Leaving this, Edgar Buildings, an elevated terrace is perceived opposite Milsom Street, which, in the height of the season is the place of promenade for the gentlemen, and that of shopping, for the ladies. Here all is bustle and gaiety; numerous equipages passing and repassing; the houses handsome, and the shops elegantly laid out. Bond Street has no thoroughfare for carriages, being similar to Cranbourne Alley, now Cranbourne Street, in London. The shops here are elegant and well furnished. Here is the library and reading rooms of Mr. Barrett and Bladud Bank, who draw upon Jones and Co., Lothbury, London. In Union-Street, is the General Hospital, open for the reception of the sick poor from all parts of England and Ireland to whom the waters may be applied with benefit; but this building is not open to the natives of Bath.

From Stall Street, passing into Abbey Place, the fine venerable Abbey bursts upon the eye of the visitor. Bath Street, directly opposite to the King's and Cross Bath, gives a sort of finish to this part of the town. To the right of the Cross Bath is the Eye Infirmary. Hetling Court, contiguous to this, contains St. John's Chapel, rebuilt in 1723, by Mr. Killegrew, where divine service is performed twice a-day. To the right is Bradley's Buildings; but nothing particular engages the eye of the visitor till he comes to the Old Bath Bridge. At the corner of Weymouth-

Street is St. James's Church. In Abbey Gate Street is situated the Lancasterian School, where 500 children are taught, gratis. In Kingston Buildings stands the Post Office, from whence the visitor may return through Milsom Street, to the York Hotel.

In the second walk it may be advisable to view Sydney Place, a most admirable specimen of modern architecture, the houses being all the production of one quarry. Turning to the left, through Darlington Street, the new Church of St. Mary at Bathwick, appears, built of cream-coloured stone in the modern gothic style. The first stone was laid in September, 1814, bearing this extraordinary inscription:—

"Glory to God in the highest:—on Earth peace."

The most sanguinary conflict ever recorded in the annals of History had ceased, and the downfall of Napoleon, the despot of France had taken place, when the nations of Europe became united in the bond of peace. At such a joyful period, and on the first day of September, in the year of our Lord 1814, the foundation stone of Bathwick New Church was laid. Rt. Hon. Harry, Earl of Darlington, Lord of the manor. The Right Rev. Richard, Lord Bishop of the Diocese. The Rev. Peter Gunning, Rector, &c. &c. This church dedicated to St. Mary was consecrated on the 11th of February, 1820, by the Bishop of Gloucester It is a spacious and elegant structure of the modern Gothic.

The removal of the old ruinous church of Bathwick, not only gave an additional air of importance to Great Pulteney Street, but afforded great satisfaction to all who wished for a more enlarged place of worship.

On the new road to Widcombe, a path on the right, through the fields, leads to the ferry. To view Waterloo Gardens three-pence is charged, though these may be engaged for select parties; they are small, contain some pleasing walks, and the use of a swing. From the river-side, there is a walk along

the Avon to Pulteney Bridge. A penny is charged for crossing the Avon in a boat. Landing on the South Parade, here is a good *look-out.* Duke Street, in the middle of this, leads to the North Parade, which has a broad elegant terrace, stone balustrades, and iron railing. Pierrepont Street is at the end of this parade. These houses are extremely convenient for the frequenters of the Old Kingston Rooms, a few yards from the North Parade, and which form one of the most lively and interesting features in Bath. The present master of the ceremonies is Captain Marshall, who was elected in November, 1817.

Entering York-Street from the Orange Grove, the Free-Mason's Hall immediately meets the eye of the spectator; the foundation stone of which was laid on the 28th of July, 1817. The exterior of this is a fine piece of Grecian architecture. It has a small portico in front, with pillars of the Ionic order, and the front is ornamented with figures and a long range of Grecian iron railing, quite *nouvelle* in Bath; but as a decided proof that the secrets of masonry are not all of a purely intellectual nature, near the lodge-room is a kitchen, supplied with cooking utensils sufficient to furnish food for a large company, having two very large coppers, &c. &c.

At the bottom of Bath-Street, and near the Cross Bath, is a neat little building containing the BATH ANTIQUITIES. To the lovers of research, an hour or two may be fully employed in examining the various relics of ancient times. It is open at all hours of the day for public inspection, and the remuneration is left to the generosity of the visitor. Among other fragments of Masonry and Sculpture, the remains of the Temple of Minerva, form the most remarkable objects in the collection. Contiguous to the South Parade, ground has been marked out for an elegant new square, to be called Kingston Square. The Old Theatre in Orchard-Street was, in 1809, converted into a convenient and spacious Catholic Chapel. On

recrossing the ferry towards the right of the road, several pieces of ground are set apart for new streets, places, &c. A third walk may be made from Portland-Place through Burlington-Street, Harley-Street, and Gloucester-Place. Passing through Margaret-Buildings we come to Margaret Chapel, and at length through Brook-Street, into the Royal Circus. Upon entering this noble pile of building, the eye is delighted with the uniformity and grandeur of the scene. Its Roman appearance is very impressive. The houses have, between each of the various stories, two pillars of the Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian orders, and are further decorated with numerous sculptured medallions. In the middle of the buildings is a shrubbery and a gravel walk, surrounding a reservoir, enclosed with a circular iron railing. In Alfred-Street are the Upper, or New-Rooms, which cost 20,000*l.* and were opened for company in 1771.

Queen Square is not only magnificent, but chaste. In the centre, enclosed in an iron railing, is an obelisk, seventy feet high, bearing the following inscription:

In Memory of Honours conferred,
And in gratitude for Benefits bestowed on this city
By His Royal Highness
FREDERICK Prince of Wales,
And his Royal Consort,
In the Year MDCCXXXVII.,
This Obelisk is erected
By RICHARD NASH, Esq.

Beaufort Square, with which we may commence the fourth walk, is only important from its containing the grand entrance to the New Theatre Royal, which has an elegant and attractive appearance. Its classical front was designed by N. Dance, Esq. The exterior is handsome, but the interior is fitted up in the highest state of excellence. Quitting Beaufort Square, the visitor finds himself in Trim-Street, containing the Unitarian Chapel, a handsome erection distin-

guished for the neatness of its pews and galleries, and its excellent singing. To the left is Gascoyne Place, and the Blue School for 100 poor boys and girls.

The public market is well deserving the attention of every stranger that comes to Bath. The butter is peculiarly fine, and may be deemed one of the luxuries of this place. The Guildhall, close to the Market-House, may be viewed next as one of the great ornaments of the city. The front in High-Street is a fine piece of architecture, and here are held the Sessions, which occur four times every year, and a Court of Requests every Wednesday, for the recovery of debts under forty-shillings, and not exceeding 10*l.*, within the city. Nearly opposite to Guildhall is Fromont's Coach-Office; this part is all bustle, trade, and activity. Northumberland Place near it is also said to resemble Cranbourne Alley in London, containing many excellent shops for the ladies. In Broad-Street is situated the Public Grammar School; and in Lady Mead, the Bath Penitentiary and Lock Hospital. Walcot Church is a handsome stone building, enlarged in 1780. This parish alone contains 20,000 souls. At the end of Walcot Parade, descending a flight of steps, the Ferry offers itself on the left. The relief then from the busy hum of trade, is enjoyed in the prospect of trees, water, &c. The Ferry boat called the Industry, has a broad flat bottom. The Avon here is narrow, and a rope is fixed to the trees from one side to the other, by which the ferryman pulls himself and his company over, at the charge of one penny each.

From Upper Camden Place we may commence walk the fifth. This fine high terrace, which is a delightful place of residence, possesses a broad pavement, with a carriage road in front of it, enclosed with iron rails, to render it perfectly safe. Passing Spencer's Bell Vue, on the right, is Lansdown Grove, with Lansdown Place east and west, and the Crescent. This is a noble pile of building, and its extraordinary elevation is the admiration of every spectator, being

the highest station in Bath. By comparison it is like looking down from St. Paul's Cathedral into the streets of London.

All Saints Chapel, rising in the declivity or grove beneath the Crescent, is no trifling addition. This was built in the Gothic Style by Mr. Palmer, the Architect, and was opened in 1794. Contiguous to the Crescent is Somerset Place, an elegant circular range of buildings with a grass plot. Descending from the lofty situation by Somerset-House, the new row of very fine residences, called Cavendish Crescent, appears, with its small grass promenade attached to it. Cavendish Place has to boast of virandas and balconies to most of the houses. On the left is Park-Place, leading into St. James's Square, and at every step the visitor takes, nothing but elegance meets his eye. Proceeding in a straight line, the Square is left, Marlborough-Street is passed, and at the bottom Marlborough Buildings, a long range of respectable habitations, and the very *acme* and grandeur of all Bath is now attained, namely, the Royal Crescent. This is of an eliptical form, with a single order of Ionic pillars supporting the superior cornice. The fronts of the houses have an imposing effect. Independent of a wide pavement, a broad carriage-road, and a fine lawn in front, enclosed with iron rails; it has also a capacious gravel walk for foot passengers. No lodging is to be obtained here, and it is often difficult to procure houses. At all times it is an attractive promenade for the visitors of Bath, but in the season, on a Sunday it is also crowded with fashionables of every rank; and with the addition of the splendid barouche, dashing curricle, elegant tandem, gentlemen on horseback, &c., the Royal Crescent strongly reminds the spectator of Hyde Park, Rotten-Row, and Kensington Gardens, when adorned with all their brilliancy of company. On quitting this elevated walk, the visitor will soon pass through Brook-Street, and passing the Belvidere, arrive at Upper Camden-Place, where refreshment and rest enable him to recapitulate the various objects he has been delighted with.

Walk the sixth may consist of a promenade to Weston; the Hyde Park or Kensington Gardens of Bath. A visit to the pretty village of Weston in fine weather, delights every visitor to Bath; and in the spring may be viewed as a grand promenade. Marlborough Buildings leads up to Weston Gate; the prospect on all sides is now enchanting; but on the right of the road are numerous elevations, the high common, Sion House, Winifred House, &c. At the bottom of Sion Hill is the House of Protection for young destitute females, where the number relieved is few, but the governesses, &c., numerous. In the village of Weston the houses are all built of freestone, and at its extremity is a waterfall. Though the visitor in returning to Bath may be considered as retracing his steps, yet the prospect assumes a different aspect, as he may diversify the scene by turning off into Barton's Fields on the right, and by getting into the road, go down Nile-Street.

The seventh excursion from Bath, may be made from the Old Bridge; hence to Broad-Quay, Clarke's Lane, Back-Street, Gerrard-Street, Wine-Street, and the Lower Borough Walls. In the latter is the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary; and at a small distance St. Catharine's Hospital, the Bimberries or Black Alms-house, a mean structure of fourteen habitations for paupers of both sexes. In Belltree Lane is Bellot's Hospital, open in the warmer months from Lady-Day to Michaelmas for lodging twelve men and women, strangers to Bath, who have the privilege of using the baths. Avon-Street is considered as the Wapping of Bath, and a place of refuge for the frail sisterhood. Kingsmead Terrace is a pretty residence, with handsome gardens before it. Proceeding forwards is Green-Park Buildings, west, and Green-Park Place, east. Near Norfolk Crescent, various new erections are taking place. The houses here are of a lofty character, but modelled after the most elegant style of architecture. At Brook's Lock is the Gasometer, from which the whole city is illuminated with

gas. Returning to the city, the upper Bristol road is soon gained, and the Crescent Fields, and the Royal Crescent, present themselves on the left, and form a charming picture. The Wesleyan Chapel is a large neat building. The Casualty Hospital, the Moravian Chapel in Monmouth-Street, and the Union Blue-Coat School, may terminate this excursion.

The eighth walk is through Bridge-Street, across Pulteney-Bridge and Laura Place, to Sydney Hotel and Gardens, and to the Queen's House. Next to the grandeur of Great Pulteney-Street, Sydney Gardens is one of the most prominent, pleasing, and elegant features, attached to the city of Bath. Here are swings adapted for ladies and gentlemen, and several alcoves formed with botanical taste, grottoes, &c. The Kennet and Avon Canal runs through the gardens, with two elegant cast-iron bridges thrown over it in the Chinese taste. The Labyrinth shown here at threepence each person, is an object of curiosity. The terms of subscription for walking are, for one month, each person, 4*s.*; for three months, 7*s.* 6*d.*; and the season, 10*s.* Non-subscribers, for walking, pay sixpence each time. The terms of subscription to the ride, one month, are 2*s.* 6*d.* each person; the year 15*s.* Non-subscribers, 6*d.* each time.

Turning to the left, at the bottom of Sydney-Place is the Queen's House, so named from having been the residence of her late Majesty. The whole of this neighbourhood is truly attractive.

The ninth walk may commence from Great Pulteney-Street, turning down into Grove-Street, at the bottom of which is the Bridewell of Bath, with an exterior more resembling a gentleman's house than the residence of culprits. The Girls' School in Grove-Street, is under the care of the Rev. Mr. Warner. From this an archway leads to the side of the Avon. Here is Waterloo-Place, and this outlet of Bath has further to boast of the high-sounding names of Widcombe Parade, and Claverton-Place. Prior Park is described in another part of this work.

Claverton Down is 400 feet above the city of Bath, and is distinguished for its beautiful extensive level velvet turf. The late Rev. Mr. Graves held the rectory of Claverton 60 years, and died in 1807, at the advanced age of 90. Previous to an arrival here the Crown Inn, better known by the name of the *Brass Knocker*, with the Aqueduct uniting the Kennet and Avon Canal, are passed. About half a mile from the right of the canal is the elegant Gothic mansion of Mr. Skryne. Bath Hampton Church appears soon after we have quitted the railway. Bailbrook Lodge is an institution established under the auspices of Lady King, principally for decayed females, and ladies of very limited income. There is no limitation as to age, but the widows and daughters of Clergymen, and of the Officers of the army and navy, have the preference over all other Candidates. Along the banks of the canal a new range of small neat residences are nearly finished; near to which are the Swimming Baths.

The tenth walk is from the Circuit through Bennet-Street, Russel-Street, Belmont and Oxford Row, Montpelier-Row, &c., to the Rocks at Wick. Bath races, it seems, have been revived within the last five years, and are generally held on the 8th and 9th of July. A board contains a notice "That prosecutions will be instituted against persons found badger-baiting, pricking in the garter, &c." Lansdown Fair is held close to the Blathwayte Arms, annually on the 10th of August. Landsdown Pillar was erected in remembrance of a battle between the Royal and Parliamentary forces in 1643, erected by George, Lord Lansdown, in 1720; his ancestor Sir Bevil Granville, having signalized himself in this desperate engagement. It contains some long inscriptions. Prospect Stile, is so called from the completeness of the view which it affords.

Wick is a small village about three quarters of a mile in length; but though the rocks here fall short in comparison with those of St. Vincent, near Clifton,

they are a great natural curiosity. Persons visiting Bath or Bristol, should not omit visiting the rocks at Wick, which are but half way from either of the above-mentioned cities.

The eleventh walk or ride, may be from Grosvenor Place, on the London road to Bath Easton, through the villages of Box and Pickwick to Corsham. The approach to Corsham-House is through a long wide avenue of thickly-planted high trees; this house has changed its proprietors several times, and in 1749, it was purchased by the late Paul Methuen, Esq., in order to display his very fine collection of paintings, which the connoisseurs have pronounced to be the second in the kingdom, being valued at more than 200,000*l.* Paul Methuen Cobb, Esq., is the present proprietor of the mansion, who has completed the liberal undertaking commenced by his father.

The twelfth excursion has been proposed from the Old Bridge to Holloway, the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, and other places, to Clifton. This delightful village, and the Bristol Hot Wells are so immediately connected with a visit to Bath, the distance being only thirteen miles, and the expense so trifling, that it seems only necessary to state that stage coaches start almost every hour from Bath to Bristol, outsides 2*s.* 6*d.*, insides 4*s.* Twiverton, or Twerton, on the road, is a neat interesting village, and conspicuous for its broad-cloth manufactory. Saltford and Keynsham, contain nothing remarkable. Brislington is a small clean village; but for a description of the Hot Wells, and St. Vincent's Rocks, see the index.

The last excursion proposed from Bath is of an aquatic kind, being a sail down the Avon through the rocks of St. Vincent to Pill; cross the river to Weeks's Hotel in Gloucestershire; walk to Pen Pole through Shirehampton to Lord de Clifford's Park, Kingsweston Hill and Tavern.

The little sea-port of Pill is only six miles distant from Bristol, and boats and vessels continually passing, will convey visitors for sixpence fare. The sail from

Rownham Tavern, or the Ferry, is delightful; the passage through the rocks of St. Vincent appears like a cavern rent asunder. Pill is full of public-houses; the Waterloo Inn, Red Lion, and Duke of Wellington. The grounds of Lord de Clifford extend to Pen Pole, upon which elevation a sort of sun-dial is erected. The trees, valleys, and picturesque scenery adjoining and beneath Pen Pole, is very pleasing; but the vast expanse that unfolds itself around, is of that nature, that imagination must supply the defect of description. In the centre appears the immense space of the Severn, into which the Avon empties itself. Ships making and leaving Bristol. The range of hills and mountains encompassing the view as far as the eye can possibly stretch. To the right is seen the New Passage-House to Wales, and the Passage-House on the other side. In the circle on the right is the range of fine hills in Somersetshire. After quitting Pen Pole, and passing through the village of Shirehampton, the traveller soon enters the delightful Park of Lord de Clifford, affording some charming views of Dundry tower, the Old Ruin at Clifton, the windings of the Avon, and the seats of Mr. Nash, and Mr. Miles, a rich merchant, the latter containing 132 rooms. Upon King's Weston Hill a commodious inn is erected, with large stabling. From the summit of King's Weston Hill, Tomb Marle, in Wales, is seen; also the Denny, Chepstow, &c. At Lord de Clifford's, the visitor has nothing more to do than to ring a bell, and upon announcing his wishes to a footman, the housekeeper instantly presents herself, and the apartments are shown without delay. Upon leaving the Inn at King's Weston, a delightful walk may be taken through the fields to Bristol. The rich lofty trees on Durdham Downs, render this situation truly delightful. The main road is soon acquired, and from Clare-Street, the Bush Tavern has always numerous stages to convey the traveller almost at every hour in the day to the city of Bath.

The following are among the principal antiquities discovered in and near Bath.

In digging some cellars in Stall-Street, in Bath, in 1753, a pedestal was found, having the following inscription:

Locum Religiosum, Perin;
Solentiame Rutumn Virtuvtet
Aug Repurga Tum Redditit
C Seveirius Emeritus Peg; *i. e.*,

"Seveirius, at his own expense, cleared and repaired a ruined cemetery, and put it under the protection of the emperor."

This stone is exhibited to view on the ground staircase of the Guildhall. Under it was found several coins of the Emperor Carausius. A Roman Altar was found near the same place in 1754.

In the year 1755, when the Abbey House, or Priory, was taken down, the workmen digging out the ancient foundation, found, about eight feet below the surface of the earth, several rough-hewn stone coffins, with the seemingly entire but mouldering remains of human bodies of different ages and sexes, and several coins of the successive Saxon Kings. About six feet below the Saxon interment were discovered the remains of very noble Roman baths and sudatories. The walls were six or seven feet high, built of stone, and lined with firm red cement. One of these baths was forty-one feet in length, and twenty-four feet in breadth; another, ninety feet by sixty: there were also two semicircular baths, and two vapour baths, whose floors were supported by pillars of brick, 13¾ inches thick, and nine inches square. The floor was composed of strong hard tile, about two feet square, on which were layers of very strong cement. Several of the baths had beautiful tesselated pavements.

In digging the foundations for the new Hot Bath, &c., near the Cross Bath, a great number of Roman brass coins of the Emperors Nero, Adrian, Trajan,

Antonine, &c., were found, and another pedestal, inscribed,

DE. A. E. SVLIM NꝶR VAE SVLNvS MATVRI FIL V. S. L. M.

explained to mean,

"Sulimus, son of Maternus, gladly pays his grateful vows to the goddess Minerva."

In digging the foundation for building a new Pump-Room, in 1790, various remains of Roman antiquities were discovered below the houses that were pulled down, on the east side of Stall-Street, consisting of a votive altar, a considerable part of a magnificent fluted column, two feet eight inches in diameter, and a beautiful Corinthian capital belonging to the same. There were also several massy fragments, adorned with sculpture, in basso-relievo; one of these exhibits a portion of an ellipsis, formed by a broad wreath of oaken boughs; richly wrought within this, at some distance, appears part of a similar ellipsis, proportionally reduced in size. The votive altar, and various remains of victims discovered, indicated the site of a temple on this spot; and it is highly probable, that the column might have formed part of the portico.

The temple was probably dedicated to Minerva. These remains were found twelve feet, or more, below the present surface, and at about the same depth the workmen met with an ancient paved way, consisting of broad free-stones, with a channel at the extremity to carry off the water. A learned account of these, and other antiquities, with engravings, was published by the late Governor Pownal; and also another very satisfactory account by the Rev. Mr. Warner, author of the *History of Bath*, and several other learned and ingenious works.

In 1793, the workmen digging near Sidney-Place, Bathwick, about four feet under ground, came to a large stone, which, on clearing, proved to be a sepulchral altar, in almost perfect condition, with a Latin inscription to the memory of Caius Calpurnus, sup-

posed to have been an officer of rank in Britain, and of a noble family in Rome.

At Stanton Drew, are the remains of a Druidical Temple, of three circles of stones, vulgarly called The Wedding, from a tradition that a bride and her attendants were changed into three stones. The largest of these circles is about 378 feet diameter; the height of the upright stones on its periphery from four to five feet. These circles are near to each other, on the top of a small round hill.

At Wellow, near Farley, several Roman tesselated pavements have been discovered, and engravings published of them, by the Society of Antiquaries. Tesselated pavements have also been found in several other parts of the county.

About two miles south-west from Kilmington Church, in the hundred of Norton Ferrers, is a small encampment, called *Jack's Castle*, of an oval form, but its works are nearly erased. It is supposed to be Danish, it being near this spot that King Alfred so completely defeated them. The memory of the Prince is preserved by a stately tower, erected at the south-west extremity of the Parish, by the late Henry Hoare, Esq., upon an eminence. This tower is of brick, and of a triangular form, having a turret at each angle, and a railed gallery round one of them. Its height is about 155 feet, and the ascent to its top is by 121 steps. This tower is now the property of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart., whose elegant seat at Stourhead, adjoins this parish on the Wiltshire side.

The island of Athelney, near Langport, is remarkable in history for being the spot where Alfred found an Asylum from the fury of the Danes. On a tablet over the entrance to this tower is the following inscription:—

"Alfred the Great. A. D. 879, on this summit erected his standard against the Danish invaders: to him we owe the origin of Juries, and the creation of a naval force. Alfred, the light of a benighted age, was a philosopher and a Christian, the father of his

people, and the founder of the English monarchy, and its liberties."

The Bath and West of England Society, for the encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, meet at Hetling-House. It was established by Mr. Edmund Rack, a native of Norfolk. The late Duke of Bedford was one of its presidents; and to perpetuate his memory, a fine bust of the Duke, done by Nollekins, is placed in the rooms belonging to the Society. It has been considered one of the first institutions of the kind in England. A subscription of one guinea per annum enables a person to become a member, with the right of voting. The Marquis of Lansdown is the present president.

The bust of Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, Bart., F.R.S. by Chantrey, has lately been placed in the Society's large room, and is considered as one of the most beautiful specimens of sculpture in Europe.

The Bath and Bath Forum Free-School, is in Corn-Street, and is capable of containing 400 children, nearly which number, of all religions, have been taught in it at one time. It is under the patronage of the Mayor and Corporation. Annual subscribers of one guinea may recommend two boys; those of two, five boys.

Bath Harmonic Society. This musical institution is held every Friday evening, from December to March, at the White Hart Inn, in Stall-Street, and was founded in 1795, by the Rev. Mr. Bowen, a gentleman of acknowledged musical taste. The singing consists mostly of catches, glees, &c. Nothing that can offend the most refined ear is suffered to be sung. The members are admitted by ballot. Three guineas for the first season. The Dukes of York and Gloucester are members; and his present Majesty, when Prince Regent, conferred the dignity upon the Society of wearing garter blue ribands. In the season a superb concert and ball is given to the ladies at Kingston Rooms. Strangers are admitted twice in the year; but noblemen, gentlemen, and professional men

only, are elected as members. Of the kind, this is the first society in England.

Principal Inns. The following may be reckoned as the most conspicuous, from which the mail, and several other coaches, start:—

York-House, York-Buildings, Messrs. Lucas and Reilly; White Hart, Stall-Street, Messrs. Woodhouse and Co.; White Lion, Market-Place, Mr. Arnold; Castle, Northgate-Street; Mr. Temple; Lamb, Stall-Street, Mr. Banks; Grey-hound, Market-Place, Mr. May; Angel, Westgate-Street, Mr. Rose; Fromont and Co.'s Coach-Office, Market-Place; Christopher's ditto; Golden Lion, Horse-Street, Mr. Prince.

With respect to Lodging-Houses, Bath rises superior to almost every other place of public resort in the kingdom: these are distinguished for their elegance, convenience, and comfort; the prices vary according to the situation of the house, number of rooms, &c. Among the Boarding-Houses, many will be found calculated to accommodate such visitors as wish to confine their expenditure to certain limits. Eating Houses, or Cook Shops, though so numerous in London, are not to be found in Bath, exceeding three in number; but several of the public-houses have Ordinaries. The Public Libraries are about six in number. The Riding-Schools are situated in Montpelier Row, and Monmouth-Street; they are very commodious, and are kept by Messrs. Stevens and Stokes.

The Sedan Chairs, and two-wheeled Carriages, greatly add to the comforts of Bath, proving a most desirable conveyance for the valetudinarian and invalid, in all weathers. The rates are fixed by the Mayor and two Justices.

In the vicinity of a city where every house may be called a capital mansion, few gentlemen's seats can be thought worthy of attention; yet the neighbourhood abounds with many pleasing seats and villas; particularly KELSTON, the ancient seat of the Harringtons, now Sir J. Cæsar Hawkins, bart.—BATH-EASTON, the seat of Dr. Brodbelt, near which, on one

of the finest situations in the kingdom, has been lately built, a house, on an extensive scale, belonging to Dr. Skeete; MIDFORD CASTLE, built by Disney Roebuck, Esq. now the property of Charles Conolly, esq. But the most magnificent mansion is PRIOR PARK, in the parish of Widcombe and Liscombe, the seat of the late benevolent Ralph Allen, esq.

At the distance of about a mile from the poor-house, near Bath, a large pair of gates protect the private road to Prior Park, the once celebrated seat of Ralph Allen, esq. Pursuing a steady course, another gate is passed which originally was called "ALLEN'S WALK." The considerate disposition of this humane character had induced him for the accommodation of the public to erect in several parts of this walk, stone seats, but all of which are now removed. A road to the left leads to Widcombe church, and on a lofty eminence stands the fine seat of Mr. Tugwell, the banker. The spectator here becomes so enraptured with the surrounding scenes, that for a moment he is lost in ecstasy in beholding the beauties of nature and art combined.

To the right, on one side of the road, are fine lofty elm trees, which during the time of Allen, were growing on both sides, and their boughs so closely entwined as to form a complete picture of a long Gothic arch. At an opening a few yards further along the road, the Royal Crescent appears with peculiar grandeur. The pleasure grounds of Prior Park in fine cultivation; the water, the foliage of the chestnut, fir, and elm trees increase the effect. At length a slight view of the mansion appears, also a residence for the keeper, and upon an ascent to the left an antique *look-out*. Prior Park, Mr. Egan observes in his "Walks through Bath," cannot be viewed merely for its delightful situation or distinguished architecture, nor passed over with the common routine of a gentleman's estate. From the virtues of its once liberal-minded proprietor, and the extraordinary talents of its inmates, such as Pope, Fielding and Warburton,

it possesses far more sterling claims to respect and admiration.

Prior-Park House is so called from its having been built on land which formerly belonged to the Prior of Bath, who had a grange or farm at a short distance from it, and a park that supplied the poor mortified monks with venison. This house was erected by Mr. Allen, in 1743, on a slope of land 100 feet below the summit of Coomb Down, and 400 above the city of Bath; and is one of the most magnificent freestone mansions with respect to its outside in the kingdom. A noble house forms the centre; from the extremities of which stretch two sweeping arcades connecting with the main body as many wings of offices, terminated by elegant pavilions, and forming a continued line of building of nearly 1,300 feet in front. The style is Corinthian, raised on a rustic basement, and surmounted by a balustrade. From the plane of the centre an extremely grand portico projects, supported by six large and elegant columns. But within every thing is dark, little, and inconvenient, excepting the chapel, which is neat and elegant, and adorned with an altar-piece by Van Deest. But the back part of Prior-Park House is extremely elegant, and ornamented with six very lofty pillars of the Doric order; it is singular to remark that the roof is made of stone, and also several of the window-sashes. The prospect from every part of this elegant residence captivates the beholder. On quitting the house, a lodge is passed, contiguous to which are two roads, the left leading to Trowbridge, the right to Bristol. In the time of the worthy Allen this place was a complete grove, and extended for a long distance; but since his exit, *profit* and the *cutting-down* system have prevailed over every other consideration. In fact, Prior-Park House, with all its contiguous beauties, is but a mere skeleton, compared with what it was.

In the park are the visible remains of that noble ancient boundary called Wansdyke or Wanditch,

which has been noticed before in the early part of the description of this county.

Lansdown, which is noticed in the Agriculture of this county, is one of the most conspicuous and happily-situated hills in the west of England; yielding a fine view of the Bristol Channel, city of Bristol, part of Wales, and great part of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Wiltshire; and from one point of view the cities of Bath and Bristol may be seen at the same time.

The view from this hill is enchanting, and equalled by few in this or any other county in the kingdom.

Near the top of Lansdown-hill is a spring of excellent water, which is conveyed in pipes to most parts of the city.

On the brow of this hill is a monument, erected by order of Lord Lansdown, to the honour of Sir Bevil Granville, his lordship's ancestor, who was killed here on July 5th, 1643, in a battle between him and Sir William Waller, the Parliament general.

This monument is erected as near as possible to the spot where this brave man was slain.

Journey from Ilminster to Frome, through South Petherton, Ilchester, and Castle-Cary.

ILMINSTER

Is situated in a low, but agreeable part of the hundred of Abdick, on the turnpike-road from Somerton to Chard, and from Taunton to Crewkerne. It is a very inconsiderable place, consisting principally of two irregular streets. It was formerly much larger than at present, and has been diminished by several severe fires, particularly in the year 1491.

The market, which is on Saturday, has been established from a very early period, prior to the Norman Conquest; and the cloth manufacture, which formerly flourished here to a very great degree, still affords employment to a great part of the poor.

The church is a fine Gothic structure, built in the form of a cross, consisting of a nave, chancel, tran-

septs, and north and south aisles. In the centre stands a handsome tower, crowned with twelve pinnacles.—In the north transept is an ancient monument, to the memory of the founder of Wadham College, Oxford.

Ten miles east of Ilminster, is the small village of South Petherton. Its original name is said to be Pedred's Town, derived from its situation on the river Pedred, or Parret; and the epithet South has been added, to distinguish it from North Petherton.

The river Parret passes here under a stone bridge of three arches, a mile south of the church, on the turnpike road from Ilminster to Yeovil. This bridge was formerly of wood, which having become ruinous, and two children having been drowned in the river near it, the parents of those children built it of stone, and caused their little effigies to be placed on it, to commemorate their unhappy fate.

In ancient times, South Petherton was of some note, as the residence of Ina, King of the West Saxons; but at present, it has little to attract the notice of the traveller.

A little to the east of South Petherton, is a village called Montacute, where the Earl of Moreton and Cornwall, brother, by the mother's side, to William the Conqueror, built a castle on the top of a hill, and a Priory of Cluniack Monks at the bottom. This castle has been many years totally destroyed, but there are some remains of the priory, which are kept in repair, and make an agreeable country-seat.

IVELCHESTER, or ILCHESTER,

In the hundred of Tintinhull, is situated on a flat luxuriant soil, upon the River Ivel, the ancient *Velox* of Ravennas, 18 miles south from Wells, and 12 north from Crewkerne. The town is very ancient, and supposed to have been the *Iscalis* of Antoninus, and a Roman station. At the Norman

Conquest, it was a place of considerable strength, having a castle with a double wall, but no mention is made of its then owner. The town is a borough by prescription, and in the reign of Edward III., the itinerant justices were ordered to hold the assizes here, although they are now alternately held at Taunton, Wells, and Bridgewater; in all other respects, it is the principal county town, where the courts are held, the gaols kept, and the knights of the shire chosen.

At present there is only one church in Ivelchester, although it had four at the time of the Reformation: and the inhabitants have still a tradition, that there were formerly sixteen churches in the town; but it is probable that many of them were only chantries. However, there is no doubt but it was once very considerable, as great heaps of ruins are still to be seen, and many stone coffins have been dug up adjoining to where the ancient wall was built.

The Roman fosse-way runs across the centre of the principal part of the town, and many coins have been found near the ruins of the wall.

As most of the county business is transacted here, the place is in general populous, and the principal support of the inhabitants depends on those who come to attend the courts.

Ilchester Gaol is said to be well managed, and will now be considered of more note from the circumstance of its becoming the place of confinement of Mr. Hunt, of Manchester memory.

The government of the town is vested in two bailiffs, assisted by twelve of the principal inhabitants, called burgesses; and the election of members to serve in parliament, is by all the inhabitants who pay scot and lot.

In the beginning of the reign of Henry III. one William Dacus founded an hospital here, where poor travellers were lodged and refreshed; but, whether from neglect, or some other reason, in the reign of

Henry VIII. it was only a free chapel, and was destroyed at the dissolution of religious houses. There was also a small house for preaching friars, which suffered the same fate.

The town has a good weekly market on Wednesday, and is distant from London 124 miles.

The celebrated philosopher, Roger Bacon, was born A. D. 1214, in the Friary of Ivelchester. The various and voluminous writings of this learned man, prove him to have excelled all his contemporaries in knowledge. He was well skilled in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Chaldaic languages. He was the first person that introduced Chemistry into Europe. With regard to mechanics, he has been styled the second Archimedes; and he is also generally allowed to have been the inventor of the telescope. He died A. D. 1294, and was buried in the house of the Grey Friars, at Oxford.

The elegant and pious Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe, whose "Letters from the Dead to the Living," are so well known and justly admired, was also a native of Ivelchester. She was the daughter of Mr. Walter Singer, a dissenting minister, but possessed of a very considerable fortune, and esteemed for his humble and unaffected piety.

Near Ivelchester prison is a Common, called *King's Moor*, where the races are kept, and the ground is considered by sportsmen as one of the best courses in the kingdom.

About half-way between Ivelchester and Castle-Cary, on the right-hand of the road, is the parish of Cadbury South, situated in a very populous and beautiful part of the county, remarkable for "one of the noblest fortifications in this, or perhaps, any other county, called by old topographers, *Camalet*, but by the natives, *Cadbury Castle*." It is situated at the extremity of a steep ridge of hills, nearly south of Castle-Cary, and was probably one of the strongest positions in the kingdom. The form of the ramparts appears to have been accommodated to that of

the hill; but there being only obscure accounts of this fortification, it is difficult to guess at what period it was constructed. Leland speaks of it in a kind of ecstasy; "Good God! (says he) what deep ditches! what high ramparts! what precipices!—In short, it really appears to me to be a wonder both of art and nature."

CASTLE-CARY,

In the hundred of Catash, is an ancient market-town, about nine miles eastward from Ilchester, and twelve miles S. E. from Wells. From its primitive appellation, *Caer*, it was probably a fortified place in the time of the Saxons. The Castle was nearly ruined during the civil wars, in King Stephen's reign, and from that period no farther mention is made of it in history; so that the spot whereon it stood is at present hardly known to the inhabitants of the town, being marked only by an entrenched area of about two acres. called *the Camp*, in which implements of war, and bolts of iron, have been frequently dug up.

Castle-Cary has a charter for holding a market on Tuesdays; but it has long been discontinued, except occasionally from Allhallow-tide to Easter.

The Church is not large, but of a very pleasing appearance, from its situation on an eminence, and the care that is taken to preserve and keep it in repair.—It consists of a nave, chancel, and side-aisles, covered with lead, with an embattled tower and spire.

The beauty of the surrounding country, the respectability of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, and its many advantages of situation, unite to render Castle-Cary interesting to the traveller, particularly if in pursuit of an agreeable place of retirement.

Three miles north-east from Castle-Cary, is

BRUTON, OR BREWTON,

A small but well-built town, containing a great number of inhabitants; situate on the River Bru,

(whence its name) at the south-west extremity of Selwood Forest.

In the market-place is an ancient cross, erected by John Ely, last Abbot of Bruton. It is hexagonal, supported by six pillars at the angles, and a large one in the centre; the roof consists wholly of the ribs of arches, which, springing from the centre, diverge from pillar to pillar, and are finely ornamented with sculpture. About the middle of the town is a well-constructed Market-House, with a large room over it, in which are frequently held the quarter-sessions for the Eastern-Division of the county. The Church is a fine Gothic structure.

There is a noble charity in this town, for the maintenance of a certain number of poor men, women, and children, with a school of instruction, founded by Hugh Saxey, esq., a native of Bruton. This person is said to have been a stable-boy at one of the inns here; but afterwards, by the help of a little learning, united with a regularity of meritorious conduct, was advanced to the post of Auditor to Queen Elizabeth. He died in 1620, possessed of considerable landed property. The annual income of the estates belonging to this charity is between two and three thousand pounds.

The chief manufacture of Bruton is that of stockings. The market is on Saturday.

At Staffordale, a small village in this neighbourhood, was anciently a small priory of Augustine Monks; which, some time before the dissolution of religious houses, was annexed to the monastery of Taunton.

Between Bruton and Frome, a distance of nine miles, there is nothing particularly worthy the traveller's notice, until, at about seven miles, we pass, on the left, the village of Nunny: which Dr. Maton notices as remarkable for the ruins of a strong castle, " the shell of which remains nearly perfect, and is a very fine piece of antiquity. The ground plan of this castle is a double square, with a round

tower at each corner. It measures sixty-four feet in length, and twenty-seven in breadth, and the walls, which appear to be at least sixty feet high, are on the sides eight feet and a half in thickness, and in the towers about seven. There were four stories, the lowermost of which seems to have contained the kitchen and offices, and was distinguished from the others on the outside, by having square instead of arched windows. The huge fire-place recals to our memory the substantial dishes of the ancient barons, and we may guess, from its size, that it has served to roast many an ox entire. Just within the door, on the right hand, some traces of steps appear, leading to the second story, in which probably was the grand hall, besides other rooms; the state apartments being still higher. The walls of the towers are pierced with loop-holes; those between have handsome Gothic windows. At the upper part of this magnificent pile, the towers are contracted in diameter, and seem to have communicated with the parapet that goes round the outside, about fifteen feet below the top. The shrubs, the festoons of ivy, and the large fragments of stone hanging from the shattered battlements, impart the most picturesque effect to this bold relic of desolated grandeur."

Nunny is a large parish, three miles west of Frome, and fifteen south from Bath, in a dry healthy spot, partly hilly, and partly plain. The parish abounds in oak timber, and there are some curious mosses on the shaggy slopes of the hills.

In the adjoining parish of Cloford, a spring rises, called Holy-Well, or Hol-well, from which a brook runs through Nunny, in its way to Whatley Elm, and Bradford Bridge, where it joins the river Frome. This stream contains excellent trout and eels, and has a bridge of three arches over it, in the street of Nunny village, through which it runs.

The castle above-mentioned was erected by Sir John Delamere, about the end of the thirteenth century. In the civil wars of Charles I. this castle was

garrisoned for the King, and had in it a large magazine, but was taken September 8, 1645, by the Parliamentary army, together with all its stores, and burnt, to prevent its future service to the King.

FROME,

A large populous market-town, agreeably situated on the north-east declivity of a hill in the forest of Selwood, derives its name from the river Frome, which, continuing its course from Samfield Common, in Wiltshire, passes through the lower part of the town, under a stone bridge of five arches. The town is irregularly built, and the streets are narrow, and ill paved. The number of inhabitants is about 8,000, who are chiefly employed in the woollen manufacture, which is rather upon the decline.

The Church is situated in the south-east part of the town, and within the tithing and manor of the West Woodlands. It is a large and handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and four chapels. On the south side of the entrance from the nave to the chancel, stands a quadrangular tower, with a handsome stone spire. The chancel is very elegant, the area, formed by the rails round the communion-table, being paved with black and white marble. The altar-piece is placed in a beautiful oval window, and represents a female pelican with three young ones under it, all superbly gilt. From the floor to this window the wall is wainscoted with mahogany, curiously ornamented with carved work, in which handfuls of wheat-ears are depicted in a very natural and striking manner. The organ, which is at the west end, makes a fine appearance, its front pipes being beautifully gilt.

Within that part of the parish of Frome, called the Woodlands, three miles south of the town, stands another church, or chapel, called the New Church, built in the year 1712, by Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth, and endowed with sixty pounds per annum, out of an estate at Pennard in this county, to

such minister as should officiate there, to be by him and his successors to the estate at Longleat nominated and appointed. This church is a handsome building, with a square tower, and an octagonal spire at the west end.

The Woodlands around this church are now the only part of the ancient forest of Selwood, bearing any resemblance to its former state, "and have been within the memory of man, the notorious asylum of a desperate clan of banditti, whose depredations were a terror to the surrounding parishes."

The forest of Selwood, as its name imports, was anciently very extensive; *Sel* signifying, in the Saxon language, *great*. It occupied a considerable part of the eastern extremity of the county, and extended itself southward from Frome towards Dorsetshire.

There are several alms-houses and other charitable institutions at Frome, and among the rest a good Charity-School: it stands near the bridge, and is a large handsome free-stone building. There is also a Free-School of the foundation of Edward VI.

The town was formerly governed by a bailiff, but it is now under the direction of two constables, who are chosen annually at the court-leet of the lord of the manor.

The ancient history of Frome commences with the reign of Ina, King of the West Saxons, whose kinsman Aldhelm, a monk of Malmsbury, and afterwards Bishop of Sherborne, founded a monastery here.—Some part of the old building, converted into tenements for poor families, may be discovered in that part of the town called Lower Keyford. It was never inhabited by the monks after the time of the Danish depredations, which obliged them to disperse, and probably deprived them of much of their property.

Journey from Chard to Milborn Port, through Crewkerne and Yeovil.

CHARD

Is a very ancient town, and once a place of some

consequence, sending representatives to parliament in the time of Edward I. and the two succeeding reigns. It is supposed to derive its name from Cerdic, a famous Saxon general. It is at present but an indifferent place, consisting of two principal streets, and a long row of houses, called Crow-lane.

The market, which is held on Monday, is a very large one for cattle and corn: it is also the largest market for potatoes in England, thirty waggon-loads being frequently brought on a market-day, during the season, and seldom less than twenty.

Three fairs are held here, viz., May 3d, August 5th, and November 2d.

The church is a large and handsome edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, north and south transepts, and a tower at the west end.

Six miles from Chard, and three miles north-west of Crewkerne, on the left of the road, is the parish of Hinton St. Giles; on the south of which are the beautiful seat and noble woods and plantations of Earl Powlett, part of which are on a fine eminence, commanding extensive prospects over the greatest part of the county, and the Dorsetshire hills to the south.

About eight miles from Chard, is Crewkerne, in the hundred named after it. It is an inconsiderable town at present, but of great antiquity, situated in a rich and fertile vale, well wooded and watered, and surrounded by cultivated eminences, which command extensive and beautiful prospects.

The inhabitants are mostly employed in agriculture, which has prevented the extension of trade, a small quantity of dowlas and sail-cloth being the only articles until lately manufactured here: the girt-web and stocking manufactories, however, appear to be increasing, and promise great advantages to the town.

The market is held on Saturday, and there is a fair for cattle on the 4th of September.

The Church is an ancient and elegant Gothic

structure, decorated with a great variety of hieroglyphic figures, well deserving the attention of the curious.—At the east end of the church is a relic of popery particularly deserving notice. On the outside of the church, behind the altar, is an open room, formerly used as a confessionary; it was entered by a door on the right side of the altar, and left by another on the left side; over the former door is a figure of a swine, hieroglyphically alluding to the filthy and polluted state of the penitents' minds before confession; over the other door are the figures of two doves, the absolved person being supposed to pass out as innocent and unpolluted as these emblems of innocence. This room is used now as a repository for the bones dug up in the church-yard.

There are two Alms-houses in this town, a Free Grammar School, and a Charity-School.

Two miles from Crewkerne, we enter the parish of HASELBOROUGH, pleasantly situated in a fine enclosed fertile country.

The river Parret runs through this parish under a stone bridge of one arch, and dividing it from the parish of Crewkerne.

In this place, about the year 1146, resided Wulfric, a celebrated saint, hermit, and prophet, in a small cell, near the church of Haselborough, clad in iron raiment, and voluntarily suffering all the severities of an eremitical life. In this retirement he was visited by some of the greatest personages, and amongst them, by King Henry I. to whom he foretold his death, as he did to Stephen that he should sit upon the throne. A small aisle, or chapel, adjoining the chancel of the church, still bears the name of *Walfric's Aisle*, where his tomb was visited by pilgrims for many ages.

Three miles from hence is EAST CHINNOCK, a small village on the turnpike-road. In this parish there is a Salt Spring, about a mile west from the church, which forms a considerable pool, whence drains are cut to a house, erected for the manufacture

of salt. It appears, that with this water they can make one pound of salt in forty, more than they can with other water under a similar operation, and with a like quantity of rock-salt.

YEOVIL,

Pleasantly situated, surrounded by a beautiful country, and sheltered from the north by a range of high hills, finely cultivated, derives its name from the river Yeo, or Ivil, which rising from seven springs, called the *Seven Sisters*, near Sherborne, runs here under a stone bridge of three arches, dividing the counties of Somerset and Dorset.

Yeovil is a large and populous town, on the great western road from London to Exeter. It is governed by a Portreeve and eleven burgesses, out of whom the Portreeve, who is a magistrate for the time being, is annually chosen. The market-day, which is on Friday, is very large, for corn, cattle, pigs, bacon, cheese, butter, flax, and hemp. In the two last articles, there is frequently from 600*l.* to 1,000*l.* returned on a market-day. There are also two fairs, of two days each; one on the 16th of November, the other on the 20th of June. The manufacture of coarse woollen cloth was formerly carried on at this place, but at present the making of leathern gloves is the principal business of the town.

The Church is a handsome Gothic structure; but it contains no monuments of antiquity.

In the year 1449, 117 houses in this town were destroyed by fire.

There have been many antiquities discovered in and about Yeovil, proving its having been visited and known to the Romans; such as coins and Mosaic pavements, the work of that people.

Near the town of Yeovil, beautifully situated on the banks of the Yeo, is NEWTON, anciently called *Newton Somerville*, the seat of ——— Harbyn, esq.

From Yeovil we pursue our road to Milborn Port, across the northern extremity of the county of Dor-

set, passing through Sherborne; about three miles from whence is

MILBORN PORT,

A borough town, in the hundred of Horethorne, ten miles south-east from Ivelchester, situated in a fertile vale, surrounded by fine hills. This place was of some note in the time of the Saxons, but lost much of its consequence after the Conquest; though it retained its privilege as a borough, and returned burgesses to several parliaments in the reign of Edward I., after which it ceased to be represented, until the 15th of Charles I., when it was restored to that franchise. The borough is governed by the owners of nine bailiwicks, who as the lords thereof, hold a court-leet, and are assisted by two deputy bailiffs, and other inferior officers. "There is also within the borough a corporate body of nine persons, consisting of two stewards, and seven assistants. In this body several parcels of land are vested, the rents and profits of which are appropriated to the second poor of the borough."—*Collinson.*

The town consists of four principal streets, tolerably wide, but irregularly built. In the High-Street is the Guildhall, an ancient building, having a door-case, partly of Saxon, and partly of Norman architecture.

The Church is an ancient structure, in the form of a cross, over which is a large quadrangular tower, supported by two pointed, and two semicircular arches.

A charter was granted to this place, by Richard II. for holding a two-days' fair annually, as a confirmation of its weekly market. A second fair is held by prescription. The fairs are June 5, and October 28.

The hundred of Horethorne is situated at the south-east extremity of the county, on the borders of Dorsetshire, and derived its name from a down, in the vicinity of Milborn Port, called Horethorne

Down, on account of a remarkable thorn grown on a spot, where, in ancient times, the courts for the hundred were held.

Journey from Porlock to Frome, through Dunster, Watchet, Nether Stowey, Bridgewater, Glastonbury, and Shepton-Mallet.

PORLOCK

Is a small sea-port town, in the hundred of Carhampton, thirty-three miles west from Bridgewater, bounded on the north and north-west by the Bristol Channel.—The situation of the town is very romantic, being nearly surrounded on every side, except toward the sea, by steep and lofty hills, intersected by deep vales and hollow glens. Some of the hills are beautifully wooded, and contain numbers of wild deer. The valleys between these hills are very deep and picturesque, the sides being very steep, craggy, and covered with underwood.

At the west corner of the Bay, there is a small pier and quay; but there is very little trade beyond the fetching of coals and lime-stone from Wales.

The eastern corner of the Bay presents a grand scene of craggy and romantic rocks, called Hardistone, Hartland, or Bossington Point, part of which are insulated at high-water. The cliffs on the east side of this point, hang over the beach with awful sublimity and grandeur. These rocks are interspersed with metallic veins, spars, crystals like the Cornish diamonds, copperas, and a small quantity of silver ore.

About three miles west of Porlock, is the little village of Culbone. The ancient appellation of this parish was *Kitnore*, that of Culbone being more lately derived from the Saint to whom the church is dedicated. This parish is very small, consisting of no more than about 250 acres.

"The approach to Culbone Church is by a small foot-path, narrow, rugged, and declivitous. After a descent of about 600 feet, the path terminates, and

introduces a view of Culbone Church and Churchyard, situated in as truly romantic a spot as any in the kingdom.

"A small cove, of an oval form, opens upon us, the bottom of which is formed by a little verdant carpet of two or three acres. Around this hollow, the hills on every side, save on that which is next to the sea, tower up, in a direction nearly perpendicular, to the sublime height of 1,200 or 1,300 feet, fretted with jutting rocks, and laden with venerable woods. *Here*, the oak's solemn shade is relieved by the bright berry of the mountain-ash; and *there*, the light satin of the airy birch is chastised by the gloom of the melancholy yew; whilst the feathering fir, and luxuriant beech, lend their contrasting foliage, to give a wider variety to the enchanting scene. At the mouth of the cove, the land suddenly falls to the shore, in an abrupt descent of four or five hundred feet, rough with enormous crags of rock, but entwined with verdure and foliage quite to the beach.

"In the centre of the little recess, thus surrounded and defended from the intrusion of the stranger, stands the Lilliputian Church of Culbone, a Gothic structure, thirty-three feet in breadth, with a cemetery of proportionate dimensions stretching round it, appropriately ornamented with broken modest gravestones, and the remains of an ancient stone cross. Two cottages, planted just without the consecrated ground, are its only companions in this secluded dell.

The hundred of Carhampton, in which this village is situated, may, with great propriety, be called the Alps of Somersetshire; the whole country being a picturesque assemblage of lofty hills, succeeding each other, with deep romantic valleys winding between them, in which most of the towns and villages are to be found. The hills are principally sheep-walks. The population of this hundred appears to amount to 6,616 inhabitants.

On the western side of the parish of Cutcombe,

in this hundred, is DUNKERY, a very high mountain, the ascent to the summit of which, from the church at Watton Courtney, is three miles, and very steep. Its base is twelve miles in circumference. By an accurate measurement, it is found to be 1,770 feet above the sea, at high-water mark. On the top of this hill are many rough loose stones, and among them the remains of three large fire-hearths, about eight feet square.—These fire-places form an equilateral triangle, and in the centre is another hearth, considerably larger than the others. At the distance of near a mile, and more than two hundred feet lower, the vestiges of two other hearths are visible, with vast quantities of loose disjointed stones scattered about them. These are the remains of beacons formerly erected on this elevated spot: the hill to this day retaining the name of Dunkery Beacon.

On the left of the road, about five miles from Porlock, is

MINEHEAD,

A sea-port and borough-town, situated on the Bristol Channel, twenty-five miles west from Bridgewater, and sixty-five from Bath. The town is divided into the Upper Town, the Lower Town, and the Quay Town; which last division is by the water's edge, under the brow of the point, or headland, which is about seven hundred feet high, and finely cultivated on the land's side to the very top; but next the sea it is a steep rugged cliff, intermixed with shrubs and bushes; the rocks hanging to a prodigious height above the tops of the houses. To the west of the point, the shore is elevated to an immense height. The castle of Dunster, about two miles inland, is an object of no small attraction over-looking both the towns of Dunster and Minehead, John Fownes Luttrell, Esq. M.P., for Minehead, is the present possessor.

The town was incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, and endowed with considerable privileges. It was formerly governed by a portreeve, but at present by

two constables, annually chosen at the court-leet of the lord of the manor.

About the beginning of the last century, upwards of forty vessels traded from hence to Ireland; many others to America; and four thousand barrels of herrings were at that time shipped here annually for the Mediterranean. At present, however, this trade is nearly lost; the herrings have left the coast, and there are at present not more than a dozen vessels belonging to the port.

"Though Minehead may have long since deplored the loss of its extensive trade, some appearance of cheerfulness and animation has been given it, till within these few years, by the company which resorted thither in the summer season for the purpose of bathing. What could have occasioned the desertion of those who sought health or pleasure on its shores, is not easily to be accounted for; since it seems to unite all the advantages, without the usual concomitant inconveniences, of a bathing place. The shore is hard and fine; the machines commodious; the lodgings reasonable; provisions cheap and plenty, and its access to be rendered easy by an excellent turnpike road, which runs to Bristol. To other inducements may be added the salubrity of its climate, which, like that of Cythera, is so soft and serene, that the myrtle-tree will live in the neighbourhood of this place, uninjured, through all the roughness of an English winter. The admirer of nature also may indulge his pursuits here in various ways: the beautiful hills and precipitous cliffs offer to the botanist a variety of rare and curious plants; the shore spreads before the conchologist, a rich profusion of *buccina, trochi, nerites, tellini,* and other shells; and the geologist will find sufficient phænomena to employ all his sagacity, and exercise his whole talent for hypothesis. Amongst them, is the following curious appearance: about a mile from the Lower Town, on the beach leading to Dunster, at the recess of the tide, is a spot denuded, in which are discovered many roots of pro-

digiously large trees, peeping out of the sand, to the height of half a foot, or more. Externally these masses are unintelligible; but when crumbled between the fingers, (for they are soft and friable) the genuine colour and original texture of the wood are plainly seen. The wonder, however, remains to be told, that when the fragments are broken parallel to the grain of the wood, imbedded in the very heart are found shells, foreign to the coast of Somersetshire, in a semi-fossile state, and oak leaves, either perfect or decayed. A species of patellæ, too, is very common on the rocks of Minehead, a good substitute for the famous *murex* of antiquity, that produced the invaluable Tyrian dye, with which the ancients stained their wool.

"Tyrio ardebat murice lana."

"A small vein, running over the head of the fish, contains this precious liquor, with which if linen be stained, and the characters exposed to different degrees of the *light* of the *sun*, they will change their hue, and become successively (from a dull white) pea-green, deep green, blue, and purple; the linen being then washed in scalding water, the marks upon it will blaze out into a splendid crimson colour, which no future washings can obliterate."

About two miles north-east from Minehead, is Dunster, an agreeable town, pleasantly situated upon the Bristol Channel, on the margin of a rich and fertile vale. It is a place of great antiquity, and had a castle during the time of the Saxons, which William the Conqueror gave to Sir William de Mohun, from whose family, by the marriage of an heiress, it came to that of the Lutterels. From the castle it was originally called *Torre*, a fortified town; but since Dunstorre, the additional word, *Duns*, implying a ridge of mountains stretching. This castle, which was one of the most magnificent in the West of England, was situated on a delightful spot, affording a prospect above two miles in length, bounded by

the sea. It sustained material damage during the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles I., for, having been garrisoned by that unfortunate prince, it was besieged by General Blake, who took it for the Parliament, and afterwards demolished great part of its fortifications. Little remains at present except two wings, which still convey some faint idea of its grandeur. This castle was remarkable for being the prison of Mr. Prynne, who, in the reign of Charles I., wrote "Historio-mastix," wherein he condemned all sorts of theatrical representations. For this offence he was brought before the Court of Star-Chamber, had his ears cut off at two different times, besides being severely whipped, and was twice exposed on the pillory.—We cannot help observing here, that, from the strage fluctuation in human affairs, it frequently happens, that the man who is the oppressor to-day becomes the sufferer to-morrow. Thus, we are told, that when Laud, the archbishop, and president of the court, pronounced the cruel sentence on Mr. Prynne, he took off his cap, and gave glory to God. It was but a few years after, when Prynne was released by order of the Long Parliament, and appointed keeper of the records of the tower, where he saw his merciless persecutor suffer an ignominious death by the hands of the common executioner, and afterwards published an account of his trial.

The only building worthy of notice in Dunster is the Church. It is in the shape of a cathedral, having a stately tower, standing on four pillars, in the middle of the cross. It was built by Henry VII. Near it are the remains of the Abbey, which was founded for monks of the Benedictine order.

The trade of this town consists in the manufacture of kerseys, which are sold to the merchants of Bristol, and by them exported to various parts of the continent.

Dunster has a weekly market on Friday, and is distant from London 159 miles.

About four miles from Dunster, on the left of the

road, is the small village of St. Decuman's, remarkable only for its being a monument of popish ignorance and superstition.

Watchet is a sea-port town, at the mouth of a small river, about four miles to the east of Dunster.—It is a place of great antiquity, and often mentioned in history for the ravages committed by the Danes. About seven or eight vessels belong to this port, which trade in coals, or serve as coasters to Bristol, where they supply the glass-houses with the ashes of sea-weed, of which abundance is burnt here for that purpose. On the shore is a sort of pebble-stones, which the neighbouring farmers burn into lime, and use it both as a manure for the land, and a cement in building, being esteemed remarkably durable. The market is on Saturday.

In the neighbourhood of Watchet is a village, called Old Cleve, the inhabitants of which gather great quantities of sea liverwort, which is found on the rocks at low water; and being cleaned and pickled, is sent to different parts of the kingdom, as an excellent remedy for the scurvy.

Between Watchet and Bridgewater, on the left, is Nether Stowey, a small market-town, having nothing remarkable to attract the traveller's notice.

From Watchet we proceed to Bridgewater, and from thence to Glastonbury, both which towns are already described; and from the latter place to

SHEPTON-MALLET,

A populous market-town, situated five miles east of the city of Wells, twelve south-east from Frome, and sixteen from Bath, in a low valley, in the hundred of Whitstone. This place has long been famous for its manufacture of woollen cloth and nit stockings. The Church stands on the east side of the market-place, and is a very large and handsome edifice, in form of a cross, having a tower at the west end, surmounted by a spire. There are also several places of worship for dissenters.

The Market-Cross is a curious structure, consisting of five arches, supported by pentagonal columns, erected in the year 1500, and lands of considerable value have been bequeathed for its support.

In our journey from Taunton to Bridgewater we omitted to mention NORTH CURRY, a small market-town, pleasantly situated on the River Tone, east of Taunton; but containing nothing interesting to the traveller. The market is on Tuesday.

Journey from Bristol to Frome; through Bath.

About four miles from Bristol is KEYNSHAM, a small market-town on the banks of the Avon, over which it has a handsome stone bridge of fifteen arches. The Church is a large Gothic structure, but contains nothing remarkable. Here is a good Charity School, where children of both sexes are taught to read and write. The trade consists chiefly in making malt, great quantities of which are sold to the people of Bristol, Bath, and other places.

In this town was a priory of canons regular, built and endowed by William Earl of Gloucester, about the year 1171; but scarce any remains of it are now to be seen. It remained till the general dissolution of religious houses, when its annual revenues amounted to 429*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* The weekly market is on Thursday.

About five miles from Bath, on the left, are the remains of Farley Castle, supposed to have been built by one of the Mountforts; but in the reign of Richard II. it came into the family of Sir Robert Hungerford, whose descendants enjoyed it, with other manors in this county, till the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., when, failing of heirs male, it came, by marriage of the heiress, to the noble family of Hastings.—Great part of the ruins of this castle still remain, from which it appears to have been originally a place of considerable strength.

About a mile and a half from hence is PHILLIP'S NORTON, in the hundred of Wellow, a small market-

town, at the eastern extremity of the county. It consists of one long street, which is irregular and ill-paved. The Church is a small Gothic structure, and appears to be very ancient; but the principal circumstance that renders this place remarkable, is its annual fair, held on the first of May, at which not only woollen cloth, but also such large quantities of other goods are sold, that it is said to equal, if not exceed, any other fair in the kingdom. The weekly market is on Thursday.

At a small distance from Philip's Norton is a pleasant village called HENTON, where, in the reign of Henry II., Ela, countess of Salisbury, built a monastery for Carthusian monks. It continued to flourish till the general dissolution of religious houses, when its annual revenues were estimated at 248*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

Journey from Bristol to Wincanton; through Pensford and Shepton-Mallet.

About seven miles from Bristol, we pass, on our left, PENSFORD, a small obscure town, situated about four miles from Keynsham. It lies in a valley on the banks of the river Thew, but contains no building worth particular description. It has a weekly market on Tuesday.

STOWEY is a small but agreeable town, pleasantly situated about three miles south-west of Pensford. The Church is a very handsome structure, but there is no other building that merits the notice of a traveller. Near the Church is a spring, from which issues a small stream, impregnated with such particles of vitriol, that if pieces of wood are thrown into it, they soon appear as if encrusted with stone. The town has a weekly market on Tuesday.

Having already noticed Shepton-Mallet and Brewton, we proceed to WINCANTON, a small but very neat town, built on the declivity of a hill, commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect of the adjacent country. The inhabitants carry on a considerable trade in serges and stockings, as also in cheese, great quanti-

ties of which are brought here from the neighbouring towns, and sold to dealers from London. The market is on Wednesday.

Among other natural curiosities it should have been observed that the cliffs above the romantic village of Chedder certainly constitute one of the finest mountain scenes in the west of England. Dr. Maton says, "I do not recollect ever having seen any of an equal effect. The village is situated under the south-west side of Mendip, and yet much elevated above the level of the moors, so that the contrast between the lofty brow of the hills on one side, and the fertile flats on the other, is singularly striking. The chasm by which the cliffs are formed does not disclose itself until we come near a mill, turned by a rapid brook, that gushes out near the entrance, and soon afterwards loses itself in the Axe. Proceeding by the side of this brook, we are suddenly struck by a gap in the side of the mountain, of the extent of which we no sooner form an idea than we find it erroneous; for the rocks project one behind another, so as often to appear to prevent farther progress. We are constantly deceived, and at length discover that this stupendous chasm extends quite through the south-west ridge of Mendip, from top to bottom, the length being at least two miles; at the end of which it divides into two branches, so as to allow an easy ascent to the top of the hills. The direction is winding, but on the whole nearly from south-west to north-east. In many points the cliffs rise to the height of full three hundred feet perpendicularly, some terminating in bold pinnacles, others in irregular fragments, like shattered battlements of vast castles, and others inclining as if about to crush the spectator as he passes under. Yews project out of several of the fissures, forming lofty canopies of a solemn shade; many rocks wear long mantles of ivy, which have the most picturesque and beautiful appearance, compared with the craggy nakedness of the others. The scenery varies continually, and to catch all its sublime effects, it is necessary to traverse

the gap backward and forward for some time. The width decreases gradually towards the termination, the bottom appearing more and more overspread with fragments of rocks, which renders it in some places with difficulty passable. On the right hand the cliffs are much steeper than on the left, and for the most part inaccessible; but it may be remarked that in general the salient angles on one side correspond with the recipient ones on the other. Indeed every circumstance contributes to impress a belief that the mountains must have been here violently rent asunder, either in consequence of some remote part suddenly losing its support, and subsiding, or some subterraneous force operating immediately below *this* part, and elevating it above the level of the rest. The inclination of the *strata*, which are from one foot to three feet in thickness, is to the south-west nearly, the general direction of them being from north-west to south-east; this is the course of the hills, the height of which seems to increase northward, and particularly near the village of Loxton, where is a prodigious eminence, called Crook's Peak. Though the cliffs are not so wide apart as Dovedale, yet, (excepting that the latter are more profusely adorned with wood) there is a great resemblance between these two grotesque spots. The rocks of Chedder are certainly on the grandest and boldest scale; on the other hand, they have not the advantage of a beautiful stream, like the Dove, dividing them. Stupendous as they are, there is a contiguous part of Mendip some hundred feet higher, sloping from their tops with a gradual ascent, and commanding, particularly to the west and south, a most extensive prospect.

"Mendip may be called the Alps of Somersetshire, as the Peak may of Derbyshire; and both these immense remarkable chains of mountains are extremely alike with regard to the materials that compose them. The rocks of the Peak abound with veins of lead and calamine, as do those of Mendip; both contain vast caverns and subterraneous vaults; and both consist of

a similar species of stone. The limestone of Mendip contains various corraloid relics (like that of Derbyshire) to a certain depth, when the miners find it more compact, and quite free from fossils."

Wokey Hole is situated about two miles north-west of Wells. It obtained its name from a neighbouring village on the south side of the hills. The approach to this cavern is extremely picturesque, being through a sort of recess or hollow, formed by an assemblage of vast rocks rising over the orifice to the height of at least 200 feet, almost covered with trees and plants, springing out of their fissures. On the left side of this recess is a natural terrace, which leads to the mouth of the cavern, and through the middle of it runs a clear rapid rivulet, that rushes out of a rude arch, thirty feet in height, and forty in breadth, impetuously making its way over an irregular bed of rocks.

THE END.

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LONDON:

Printed by W. Clowes, Northumberland-court.

A

TOPOGRAPHICAL

AND

STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COUNTY OF DORSET;

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Natural
Lakes,	Commerce,	History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

The Direct and Principal Cross Roads,
Distances of Stages, Inns, and
Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats:

ALSO

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

Exhibiting at One View, the Distances of all the Towns from London, and of Towns from each other:

The whole forming

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,
FOR
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SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

G. Sidney, Printer,
Northumberland Street, Strand

A TABLE

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY,

Their distance from London, Markets, number of Houses, with the time of the arrival and departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dis.	Mark.	Houses	Inhab.	Post arrives	Post departs
Abbey Milton	113	Tues.	80	619		
Abbotsbury	131	Thurs.	169	812		
Alington	136		151	941		
Beaminster	137	Thurs.	445	2290		
Blandford	107	Satur.	431	2425	10 40 f	3 25 a
Bridport	139	Satur.	512	3567		
Cerne Abbas	124	Wed.	143	795		
Corfe Castle	120	Thurs.	161	744		
Cranbourn	94		144	816	11 f	3 a
Dalwood	122		91	463		
Dorchester	122	W & S	3020	15980	12 50 a	12 30 a
Evershot	130	Friday	96	485		
Frampton	130	Tues.	72	331		
Gillingham	105		373	1992		
Lyme Regis	146	Satur.	342	1925	5 a	8 f
Poole	108	Mond.	1029	4816	11 20 f	4 a
Piddle Town	115		182	870		
Shaftesbury	102	Satur.	559	2635	11 10 f	2
Sherborne	118	Th. S.	575	3370	2 a	11 10 f
Stalbridge	111	Tues.	138	890		
Stockland	145		196	1045		
Sturminster	111	Friday	116	538		
Sydling	124		106	495		
Wareham	115	Satur.	372	1079	2 a	10 f
Weymouth	132	Tu. Fr	362	1747	3 a	10 30
Winborne	103	Friday	657	3158	10 30 f	5 a f

The price of postage for a single letter varies from 8d. to 9d. throughout the county.

AN INDEX TABLE OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

To find the distance from Abbotsbury to Winborne, see Abbotsbury on the top, and Winborne on the side; carry your sight to the square where both meet, which gives the distance.

	Abbey Milton																							Distant from London										Miles	
Abbotsbury	22	Abbotsbury																																	113
Alington	28	10	Alington																																131
Beaminster	25	15	7	Beaminster																															136
Blandford	4	26	33	30	Blandford																														137
Bridport	26	6	2	6	31	Bridport																													107
Cerne Abbas	13	12	15	12	16	14	Cerne Abbas																												139
Corfe Castle	17	25	38	35	20	33	27	Corfe Castle																											124
Cranbourn	22	38	45	42	12	43	28	27	Cranbourne																										129
Dorchester	14	10	14	16	16	15	8	19	28	Dorchester																									94
Evershot	18	14	12	8	24	12	9	33	36	14	Evershot																								122
Frampton	14	8	14	13	20	12	6	26	35	6	9	Frampton																							130
Gillingham	17	33	33	30	15	34	22	33	20	25	23	25	Gillingham																						130
Lyme Regis	34	18	7	12	40	9	23	42	52	24	13	22	40	Lyme Regis																					105
Poole	17	37	39	48	17	42	32	16	16	27	33	26	27	51	Poole																				146
Shaftesbury	15	38	35	32	12	39	22	32	16	28	26	27	4	44	28	Shaftesbury																			108
Sherborne	17	26	20	18	18	23	11	36	25	18	10	16	15	30	35	16	Sherborne																		102
Stalbridge	12	27	27	24	13	28	14	29	20	20	18	19	7	34	25	9	10	Stalbridge																	118
Stockland	38	24	15	15	44	18	25	52	55	32	23	28	40	13	50	44	27	38	Stockland																111
Sturminster	10	30	27	32	10	28	14	30	18	20	18	18	9	44	27	8	10	1	35	Sturminster															145
Wareham	14	24	33	34	14	33	26	6	22	18	28	23	29	42	16	26	30	22	48	24	Wareham														111
Weymouth	20	8	19	24	24	18	16	22	22	8	19	12	34	27	36	37	26	27	35	28	18	Weymouth													115
Winborne	15	36	40	43	10	37	26	17	10	22	33	29	24	46	6	22	28	24	52	20	12	30	Winbourne												132

AN INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

DORSETSHIRE is situated in the Province of CANTERBURY and Diocese of BRISTOL.

Bounded by	*Extends*	*Contains*	*Sends to Parliament*	*Manufactures.*
Hampshire, E. Devonshire and part of Somersetshire, W. Wiltshire, and another part of Somersetshire, N. The English Channel, S.	In length about 55 miles. In breadth 35 miles. And is 160 in circumference.	34 Hundreds 24 Market Towns 248 Parishes 4 Sea-port Towns About 775,000 acres of Land 124,693 Inhabitants	Twenty Members, *Viz.* 2 for the County 2 Dorchester 2 Poole 2 Lyme 2 Weymouth 2 Melcomb Regis 2 Bridport 2 Shaftesbury 2 Corfe Castle 2 Wareham	The principal Manufactures of Dorsetshire are Linen and Woollen Cloth.

Raises for the Maintenance of the Poor, nearly 80,000*l.*

TITLES

CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

Dorchester gives the title of Earl to the Damer family.—*Shaftesbury*, that of Earl to the Ashley Cooper family.—*Bridport* gives the titles of Viscount and Baron to the Hood family.—*Weymouth* that of Viscount to the family of Thynne.—*Blandford* the title of Marquis to the Spencers.—*Sherborne*, formerly a Bishopric, gives the title of Baron to the Digby family.—*Cranborne* that of Viscount to the Cecils. —*Woodford*, that of Baron to the Fox and Strangeways family, and the *Isle of Portland*, the titles of Duke and Earl to the Bentincks.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS,

For the county of Dorset, are held at the following places:

The first week after Epiphany at Blandford. The first week after the close of Easter at Sherborne. The first week after the translation of Thomas à Becket, or July 7, at Shaftesbury. And the first week after Michaelmas day at Bridport.

THE FAIRS IN DORSETSHIRE.

Abbey-Milton, or *Milton-Abbey*. July 30, for cattle and toys.

Abbotsbury. July 10, for sheep and toys.

Allington. July 22, a small fair for pedlary and cattle.

Beaminster. April 4, Sept. 19, for horses, bullocks, and sheep, &c. Also shows of cattle, cheese, &c. and Oct. 9.

Beaminster, New. April 4, Oct. 9, for cattle.

Blandford. March 7, July 10, Nov. 8, for horses, sheep, and cheese.

Bridport. April 6, for bullocks and sheep. Holy Thursday, pedlary. Oct. 11, a small fair for pedlary and cattle.

Broadway. Wednesday before Sept. 18.

Broadwinsor. Trinity Monday.

Cerne Abbas. Midlent-Monday, April 23, Oct. 2, horses, bullocks, and hogs.

Chardstock. Old Michaelmas Day.

Corfe Castle. May 12, Oct. 29, for hogs and toys.

Cranborne. Aug. 24, Dec. 6, cheese and sheep.

Dalwood. Wednesday after Aug. 24.

DORCHESTER. Feb. 14, cattle of all sorts, and sheep, Trinity-Monday, July 6, ditto, and lambs. Aug. 6, ditto, wool, and leather.

Emmergreen. May 21, for all sorts of cattle.

Evershot. May 12, for bullocks and toys.

Farnham. August 21, for cheese.

Frampton. March 4 and 7, Aug. 1, Sept. 4, for all sorts of cattle.

Gillingham. Trinity-Monday, Sept. 12, for bullocks, horses, and sheep.

Hermitage. Aug. 26, bullocks, horses, sheep, and wool.

Holt-wood. Aug. 5, for horses, cheese, and toys.

Lambert Castle. July 3, Sept. 11, for cattle.

Leigh. March 25, May 1, Sept. 3.

Lyme. Feb. 13, Oct. 2, if on a Saturday kept on the Monday, for cattle.

Maiden Newton. March 9, May 4.

Martin's Town. Nov. 22, 23, bullocks, sheep, and toys.

Milbourn. Nov. 30, bullocks, horses, and cheese.

Ower-Mayre. Oct. 10, for horses, cattle and toys.

Pamphill. July 7, Oct. 29, hogs, cheese, and toys.

Piddle Town. April 16, for horses, bullocks, hogs, and sheep. Oct. 2, cattle, &c.

Poole. May 1, Nov. 2, a free mart for toys.

Shaftesbury. Palm-Saturday, June 24, Nov. 23, all sorts of cattle.

Sherborne. May 22, for all sorts of cattle and ped-

lry. July 18, for wool, horned cattle, sheep, horses, and pedlary. July 26, for horses, cattle, and particularly for lambs and pedlary. If either of these days fall on a Saturday or Sunday, it is kept the Monday following. Oct. 14, for wool, horses, horned cattle, and pedlary.

Shroton. Sept. 25, for horses, bullocks, sheep, and all sorts of haberdashery.

Sidland or *Sydling.* Dec. 6, all sorts of cattle.

Stalbridge. May 6, Sept. 4, all sorts of cattle.

Stockland. June 12, for cattle.

Sturminster Neuton. May 12, Oct. 24.

Toller-Down. May 29 and 30, first day for bullocks, sheep, and horses; second day only for toys. July 2, for sheep and lambs. Sept. 11 and 12; if either of these days fall on a Saturday, it is kept the Monday following; first day for bullocks, sheep, and horses; second day, toys only.

Wareham. April 17, July 5, Sept. 11, for hogs and cheese.

Winbourne. April 5, Sept. 14, every other Monday, for bullocks and cheese.

Wonford-Eagle. August 21, for toys only.

Woodbury-Hill, near *Bere.* Sept. 18, and five following days, for all sorts of cattle, horses, hops, cheese, cloth, haberdashery, and all sorts of goods.

Woodland. July 5, horses, cheese, and toys.

Woolbridge. May 14, horses, cattle and toys.

Yetminster. April 23. Oct. 1.

AN ITINERARY

OF

THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS,

IN

DORSETSHIRE,

In which is included the STAGES, INNS, and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letter R *and* L.

AXMINSTER TO SALISBURY.

THROUGH BRIDPORT, DORCHESTER, AND BLANDFORD.

AXMINSTER to Hunter's Lodge	2	2	
Enter the County of Dorset	2	4	*Rhode-hill, R. Williams, esq.* R
Preston hill	1	5	*Wotton house, T. R. Drewe, esq.* L
Charmouth	1	6	*Samuel Taunton, esq.* R
— — —			*Catherstone, W. Drewe, esq.* [L
Mortcomb's Lake	2	8	
Chidiock	2	10	
BRIDPORT	2	12	Inns—*Bull, and Golden Lion.*
— — —	1	13	*Hyde, Rev. Dr. Sherive.* R
— — —	2	15	*Up Loders, R. Travers, esq.* L
Traveller's Rest	1	16	
Askerwell down	1	17	
Turnpike Gate	2	19	*Long Bredy, Rev. Mr. Richards, and Rev. Mr. Templeman.* R
Winterborne Down	1	20	
Winterborne Abbas	2	22	
— — —	4	26	*Woolveton-house, W. Trenchard, esq.* L
DORCHESTER	1	27	Inns—*Antelope, and King's Arms.*

— — —	1	28	*Stinsfard. Lady S. O'Brien*, R
Troy Town	3	31	*Kingston-House, W. M. Pitt, esq.* R
Piddle Town	1	32	*Earl of Orford*, R
— — —			*Dewlish, Gen. Michel, and F. Gundry, esq.* L
— — —	1	33	*Milborn-house, Ed. Moreton Pleydell, esq.* R
Milborn, St. Andrew	2	35	
Winterborne Whit-church	3	38	*Whatcomb, E. M. Pleydell, esq.* L
WhitchurchDown	1	39	*Milton-abbey, Rt. Hon. Caroline Damer* L
— — —	3	42	*Down-house, A. M. Mills, esq.*
— — —			*Bryanstone-house, E. B. Portman, esq.* L
BLANDFORD	1	43	Inns—*Greyhound, & Crown.*
Pimperne	2	55	
Tarrant Hinton	2	47	
Thick Thorn Inn	2	49	*Chettle-house, Rev. Mr. Chaffin*, L
Cashmoor Inn	1	40	
Woodyates Inn	4	54	*Woodyates Inn*
Enter Wiltshire	1	55	
Vernditch Chase	4	59	
Coombe Down	1	60	
Coombe Basset	2	62	
East Harnham	2	64	
SALISBURY	1	65	Inns—*Antelope, White hart, King's Arms, Black Horse, Red Lion, and 3 Swans.*

SHAFTESBURY TO POOLE,

THROUGH BLANDFORD AND WINBORNE.

SHAFTESBURY to — — —	2	2	*Melbury-Abbas, Rev. Hugh Grove.* L
Melbury Down	4	6	*West-lodge, Hon. G. Damer.* L
— — —	2	8	*Ranston, Sir E. Baker Little Hales, Bart.*

— — —	3	11	*Bryanstone-house, E. B. Portman, Esq.* L
BLANDFORD	1	12	Inns—*Greyhound, & Crown.*
— — —	1	13	*Langton-house, L. J. Farquharson, esq.* R
Tarrant Keynstone	3	16	
Shopwick Fields	1	17	
— — —	3	20	*Kingston-hall, H. Banks, esq.* R
Hill Butts	1	21	
WINBORNE	1	22	Inns—*New Inn, & Crown.*
— — —	1	23	*Merley-house, J. W. Willett, esq.* R
Poole Heath	1	24	
Patnam	3	27	
POOLE	1	28	Inns—*Old & New Antelope.*

SHERBORNE TO WEYMOUTH,

THROUGH DORCHESTER.

SHERBORNE to			
— — —	1	1	*Sherborne Park and Castle, Earl of Digby.* L
Long Burton	2	3	*West-hall, Rev. H. King.* L
— — —	2	5	*Holnest-lodge, Mark Davis, esq.* R
— — —	2	7	
— — —	2	9	*Mintern-house, late Hon. Robert Digby,* R
Cerne Down	1	10	
— — —	1	11	*Alton Pancras, Poole Bathurst, esq.* L
— — —	2	13	*Piddle Trenthide, W. Cox, esq.* L
— — —	1	14	*Forston, J. W. Smith, esq.* R
— — —	2	16	*Wracklcford, T. Taunton, esq.* R
— — —	1	17	*Woolveton-house, W. Trenchard, esq.* R

DORCHESTER	1	18	Inns—*Antelope, and King's Arms.*
Forthington fields	1	19	
— — —	1	20	*Herringstone-house, E. Williams, esq.* L
— — —	2	22	*Upway-house, J. Gould, esq.* R
Broadway	1	23	
WEYMOUTH	3	26	Inns—*King's Head, Crown, and Golden Lion.*

CREWKERNE TO CORFE CASTLE,

THROUGH DORCHESTER AND WAREHAM.

CREWKERNE to *Enter this County*	2	2	
South Perrott	2	4	
Stockity House	1	5	
Winniard's Gap	1	6	*Cheddington, Ed. Bellamy, esq.* R
Corscomb Down	2	8	
Rampisham Down	3	11	
White Sheet Hill	2	13	
Maiden Newton	1	14	*Hon. and Rev. C. Strangeways.* L
Frampton	3	17	*Frampton-house, F. J. Browne, esq.* R
Muckleford	1	18	
Bradford Peverell	1	19	
— — —	1	20	*Woolveton-house, Wm. Trenchard, esq.* L
DORCHESTER	2	22	Inns—*Antelope, and King's Arms.* [L
— — —	1	23	*Frome Billett, J. Gould, esq.*
— — —	1	24	*Stafford, Rev Mr. England* L *Came, Hon. L. Damer.* R
Main Down	1	25	
Broad Main	1	26	
— — —	2	28	*Warmwell, Rev. Mr. Pickard, and W. Richard, esq.* L
Winfrith	3	31	
Wool	3	34	*Lullworth Castle, T. Weld, esq.* R
Woolbridge	1	35	
Stoke Green	1	36	
Binnegar	1	37	

Worgate	3	40	
WAREHAM	1	41	Inn—*Red Lion*
Stowborough	1	42	
North Down Farm	3	45	
CORFE CASTLE	1	46	

YEOVIL TO DORCHESTER.

YEOVIL to *Enter this County*	1	1	
Ryne	2	3	
Chetnole	2	5	
— — —	1	6	*Melbury-house, Earl of Ilchester.* R
— — —	1	7	*Woolcoombe, Sir John Sheffield.* L
Sydling St. Nicholas	4	11	*Sir John W. Smith, Bart.* R
Frampton	3	14	*F. J. Browne, esq.* R
Muckleford	1	15	
Bradford Peverell	1	16	
— — —	1	17	*Woolveton-house, Wm. Trenchard, esq.* L.
DORCHESTER	1	18	Inns—*Antelope, and King's Arms.*

YEOVIL TO SHAFTESBURY,

THROUGH SHERBORNE.

YEOVIL to *Enter this County*	1	1	*Newton, W. Harbin, esq.* R
Babylon Hill	1	2	
— — —	1	3	*Compton-house, J. H. Penruddock, esq.* L
SHERBORNE	3	6	Inns—*Antelope, and Globe.*
Oborn	1	7	*Sherborne Park, Earl of Digby.* R
Milborn Port	2	9	
Henstridge Ash	3	12	
West Stour	3	15	
East Stour	1	16	
SHAFTESBURY	5	12	Inns—*Red Lion, & 3 Swans.*

CRANBOURNE TO POOLE,

THROUGH WINBORNE.

CRANBORNE to Winborne St. Giles	2	2	*St. Giles's Park, Earl of Shaftesbury.* R
Knowlton	1	3	
Horton Inn	1	4	
— — —	1	5	*Horton Park, H. Sturt, esq.* R *Critchill-house, C. Sturt, esq.* L
Stanbridge Chapel	2	7	*Gauntz-house, Sir R. Carr Glyn, Bart.* L
— — —	1	8	*High Hall, H. W. Fitch, esq.* R
WINBORNE	2	10	Inns—*New Inn, & Crown.*
— — —	1	11	*Canford-house, Lady B. Ashley,* L. *Merley-house, R. W. Willett, esq.* R
Poole Heath	1	12	
POOLE	4	16	Inns—*Old, & New Antelope.*

CREWKERNE TO BRIDPORT,

THROUGH BEAMINSTER

CREWKERNE to *Enter this County*	3	3	
Mosterton	1	4	
— — —	1	5	*Cheddington, Ed. Bellamy, esq.* L
BEAMINSTER	2	7	Inn—*White Hart.*
— — —	1	8	*Parnham, Sir W Oglander Bart.* R
— — —	1	9	*Mapperton, Rev. Mr. Fox.* L
— — —			*Netherbury. Rev. J. Bandenell, D. D.* R
Bradpole	3	12	
BRIDPORT	1	13	Inns—*Bull, & Golden Lion.*

SHERBORNE TO CHRISTCHURCH,

THROUGH STALBRIDGE, BLANDFORD, AND WINBORNE.

SHERBORNE to Oborn	1	1	*Sherborne-park, El. Digby.* R

Milborne Port	2	3	
— — —	4	7	*Stalbridge-house, Marquis of Anglesea.* R.
STALBRIDGE	1	8	
Sturminster	4	12	Inns—*Swan, and White Hart*
Fittleford	1	13	
Shilling Okeford	2	15	
— — —	1	16	*Hanford, H. Seymer, esq.* L
Durweston	1	17	
— — —	2	19	*Bryanstone House, E. B. Portman, esq.* L.
BLANDFORD	1	20	Inns—*Greyhound, & Crown.*
Blandford St. Mary	1	21	*Langton, J. J. Farquarson, esq.* L.
Charlton	1	22	
Spettisbury	1	23	—— *Smith, esq.*
Halfway-House	1	24	
— — —	1	25	*Charborough-house,* R. *D. Grosvenor, esq.* R.
— — —	1	26	*Henbury, Mrs. Provis Wickham, W. Churchill, Esq.* R.
Corfe Mullen	1	27	
— — —	2	29	*Kingtone-hall, H. Bankes, esq.* L. *Merley-house, R. W. Willet, esq.* R.
WINBORNE	1	30	Inns—*New Inn, and Crown*
Blake Hill	2	32	*Canford, Lady B. Ashley,* L.
Cudnall	3	35	
Kingston	1	36	*Peter Tate, esq.* L.
Ensberry	1	37	*William Austin, esq.* L
Red Hill	1	38	*Muscliff, Rev. Mr. Brice*
Enter Hampshire	1	39	
Ilford	2	41	
CHRISTCHURCH	1	41	Inns—*White Hart, & George*

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

BOUNDARIES, SITUATION, AND EXTENT.

DORSETSHIRE is a maritime county, of about 160 miles in circumference; in length, from east to west, about 55; and in breath, from north to south, about 35; containing about 775,000 acres of land. It has four considerable ports, viz. Poole, Weymouth, Bridport, and Lyme Regis, besides Sandwich, called Swannage, and Portland; from whence stone, to a great value, is shipped. It has also 24 market towns, and 248 parishes. The population of the county, in 1811, amounted to 124,698 persons.

It is situated in the S. W. of England, bounded on the N. by Wiltshire and Somersetshire, on the E. by Hampshire, on the W. by Devonshire, and part of Somersetshire: on the S. (which way it extends farthest) by the British Channel, stretched out from E. to W. with a very oblique shore, full of turnings and windings, to the Island of Portland, and thence westward, bounded by the banks of pebbles for more than 16 miles.

NAME AND EARLY HISTORY.

The county of Dorset was anciently inhabited, according to Ptolemy, by the Durotriges. The Britons, according to Asser Menevensis, who was himself a Briton by birth, and flourished about the year of Christ 890, termed them *Dwr-Gwyr;* and the Saxons called them *Dorsettan.*

The name of *Durotriges* is ancient, and though in sound it bears great affinity to the Greek language, it is entirely of British origin, derived probably from *Dour*, or *Dwr*, in British, water, and *Trig*, an inhabitant; q. d. dwellers by the water or sea-side. The same etymology must be assigned to those places in ancient Gaul (where formerly the

same language was spoken), that begin or end with *Dur*, or *Dour*, of which we have many instances, as well as in our own country. But the Saxon *Dorsettan* is partly British and partly Saxon, in which the same signification is preserved: for *settan*, among our ancestors, as well as other Germans, signifies to *dwell upon*, to *inhabit*, to *be seated*, or *settled*. Thus they call mountaineers *Dunsettan;* those who dwell upon the Chiltern Hills, *Chiltern-settan;* those who bordered upon the river Arrow, *Arow-settan;* as the Germans called those who dwelt among the woods, *Holt-settan*. And in this sense the Britons called the Durotriges, *Dwr-Gwyr*, dwellers on the sea-coast, as Mr. Camden justly observes: and perhaps this etymology, expressive of the natural situation of a place, may vie with most others both in propriety and antiquity, and carry with it a degree of evidence, at which a mere fabulous notation can never arrive. There are not wanting instances of whole countries, cities, and seas, of the greatest note, which owe their names to such originals: as Mesosopotamia, Halicarnassus, Mediterranean; names which never can be mistaken or forgotten.

Some are of opinion that the county took its name from *Dorchester*, as that did from King *Dorn*, or *Dor*, whom they imagine to have been its founder; but this is supported by no historian of credit, and may be allowed to pass for fabulous, nothing being more easy than to have recourse to feigned names, when real names are wanting.

CLIMATE.

Dorsetshire has had its claim as being the garden of England, on account of the alleged fertility of its soil and the supposed superiority of its air, &c. Most undoubtedly it is not so mild as it used to be, or so early in its seasons; this is put beyond dispute by the express testimony that there were formerly large and fruitful vineyards at Sherborne and Durweston. Though the circumstance of their being

particularly mentioned in Domesday Book does not prove there were no others in different parts of the kingdom. However, at present, the air of Dorsetshire is rather dry and salubrious, than mild and bland; and the seasons, except in spots very sheltered or of a very warm soil, are not nearly so forward as they are in other parts of England, not so far to the south. In the neighbourhood of the sea coast, there is more rain in the winter than in the summer: and as a necessary consequence or concomitant of this; there is comparatively little snow or frost during the winter months. Near the sea, also, it is remarked, the sea fogs hang on the hills sometimes for a week together, and are supposed, not without reason, to be prejudicial to the corn. Very few hedges and trees are to be seen near the coast, and even at a distance from it the prevalence and force of the sea breezes are distinctly marked by the bend to the east and north-east which they give to the trees, and by their stunted and unhealthy appearance on the side exposed to the wind.

The hills along the coast towards Lyme, Pelsden, and in general all the western part of the county, consist principally of clay, intersected by some strata of flat limestone and sand of a fine grain. The high cliffs at Burton consist of the same kind of sand, covered by a layer of flat limestone and clay. The soil of the Vale of Blackmoor is very rich in general; the ground on the banks of the Stour is a very deep loam, &c. and in the vicinity of Shaftesbury, and to the north-west, the soils are various and of much fertility.

SOIL.

This county hath not any metallic mines or coals of any value: various mineral substances, however, have been found in it at different periods, especially petrified fish shells; petrified tortoises in considerable numbers, have been dug up in Ansty Vale, of various sizes, and very much resembling tortoises, though some dispute there ever having been such. At Lower Melbury, near the Earl of Ilchester's

seat, the tortoise-stones are so highly petrified that they are sawn into slabs, and make beautiful chimney-pieces.

But the soil in general may be naturally divided into three districts, viz. chalky loams, gravelly sand and clay; or various soils, as upon a clay basis.

The appearance of the chalky surface is in general smooth, verdant, and agreeable to the eye; but remarkable in its deficiency of hedges, timber, and young plantations, which of course destroys every pretension to picturesque beauty. The chalky hills to the west of Dorsetshire, and along the borders of the vale of Blackmoor, are considerably elevated, and are divided by narrow vales, and variegated by abrupt concavities.

That the loamy covering of the chalky stratum does not increase, is plain from the appearance of the many Celtic and Roman barrows and intrenchments which seem in many instances as bare of vegetation and natural soil, as if they had been thrown up but a few years, instead of a thousand or more.

Various are the opinions concerning the original inhabitants of this country. The Aborigines, Autocthones, or Indigenæ, of this and other parts of England, are thought to be the Celtæ, Galatæ, or Gauls, descended from the Gomerians, or Phrygians, from whom the Welsh style themselves Cimbri, or Cumri. Mr. Carte calls them Brigantes, and at the time of Cæsar's invasion they inhabited only the interior parts of the island; differing greatly from those who inhabited the maritime parts of it, in laws, religion, manners, language, and complexion. They subsisted chiefly by hunting, in which they most delighted, and lived dispersed in woods and forests, devoting themselves to the superstitious rites of their religion.

In process of time they were dispossessed by the Belgæ, a Celtic colony of Gallia Belgicæ, the most powerful people of Gaul, who inhabited the coast

from the mouth of the Rhine to the extremity of Brittany, and transported themselves hither, at different times, either for the sake of plunder, or to make war on their neighbours; or, perhaps, straitened by multitudes, or for the use of commerce, they settled on this coast, where they used to traffic, opposite to their former habitations, and retained the names of those people from whom they descended. They delighted in husbandry, breeding of cattle, and trade; and were in every respect more civilized than the former. They lived in society, having houses in villages contiguous to one another, for the sake of security or traffic; and at length they made themselves masters of the S. and E coast, from the N. Foreland, in Kent, to the Land's End; parts which, by reason of trade, they were best acquainted with, and which lay opposite or nearest to their former homes. As they differed so much in customs and manners from the natives, they lived in perpetual hostility with them, and at length obliged them to retire into the inner parts of the country.

Divitiacos, king of the Suessones, 25 years before Cæsar's coming into Britain, and about 80 before Christ, brought over more of the Belgæ, to whom they readily submitted, and joining their forces, they conquered Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, Sussex, and, no doubt, those parts of Dorsetshire, of which they were not before possessed; from whence they expelled the old inhabitants, who, looking on them as incroachers, avoided all correspondence with them, were continually at war with them, and hated the first colony for joining with these new intruders.

Of ancient British monuments the following only remain: Agglestone, perhaps a rock idol, near Studland; a circle of stones, near Pokeswell; a cromlech, near Portesham; the temple, near Winterbourne; a segment of a circle of stones near it; a large group of barrows, near Corfe; a labyrinth at Leigh, in Yateminster; and within our memory

was another of the same kind at Pimperne; the man being now living that destroyed it.

In the N. E. part of the county are several ditches and valla, which Dr. Stukeley asserts were made by the Belgæ, when they conquered these parts of the country by degress; when the Celtic Britons and the more ancient or original inhabitants, diputed every inch of ground, on account of the beauty and goodness of the country, fighting *pro aris et focis*, for their two great temples of Stonehenge and Abury. The vallum of all these ditches is on the S. W. the fosse on the N. E. They are all nearly parallel one to another, and run from S. E. to N. W. in a winding and irregular manner.

In Mr. Aubrey's "Monumenta Britannica," p. 2, ch. iv. there is a rude map of Roman camps and ways, &c. in the S. part of England, wherein are marked out the four following:

1. Vernditch, the most north-eastern, begins a little east of Broadchalk, passes on the W. of Martin and Damerham, on the E. of Knowlton, and extends a little farther, but points towards Ringwood. This is in Wiltshire, and gives its name to Lord Pembroke's walk, in Cranbourn-chase. It is in some places full of pebbles, which, were there not pits in this country from whence such are now dug, as particularly at Cranbourn and Hinton Martel, we should have concluded that they must have been brought from the sea-shore. This ditch is not mentioned by Dr. Stukeley.

2. Another, a mile N. W. from the former, begins west of Grovelly Wood, in Wiltshire, near the river Wiley, passes near or through Chirkbury, Broad Chalk, and Woodyates, where it divides the counties of Dorset and Wilts; passes Bladen-hill on the west, and extends to the Stour a little west of Christchurch; at the end of Woodyates-lane it crosses the Roman way, or rather is crossed by it; for it is plain that the ditch is the more ancient work of the two, the strata of flint and pebble continuing in a

line across it, as was visible when the turnpike was made.

3. A third, near Ashmore Inn, begins more to the N. W. of Grovelly, passes by Alveston, and makes the seventh and most easterly of the seven ditches by Ashmore, leaving Bladen-hill on the east, and Badbury on the west, and ends at the Stour, a little below Winbourn. This is not so large as the last.

4. Another, near Whitchurch, called Combsditch, which gives name to an hundred, begins near Shaston, passes by Hameldon and Hod-hills, and ends west of Winbourn. Dr. Stukeley says, it had a rude ancient look, and ran between the river of Blandford, formerly the Alaune, and the river Bere, or Piddle.

To these he adds two more in Wiltshire, one on Salisbury Plain, north, of Wilton, drawn between Avon and Wilton, from Dornford to Newton, and another, which is Wansdyke, the last advanced post of the Belgæ northward, between Stonehenge and Abury.

Among the barrows that are deemed British, Dr. Stukeley takes notice of a sort, called *Druids tumuli*, which he describes to be a circle of 100 feet diameter, inclosed by a ditch of a moderate depth and breadth; on the outside of which is a proportionable vallum, and in the centre of the inclosure, sometimes a single tumulus, sometimes two or three, in which the remains of great persons were buried. There is a group of them on the Down, S. W. of Woodyates, through one of which the Via Iceniana passed.

On the right-hand of the road, from Cerne-Abbas to Calstock, and in other parts of this county, on the declivity of the hills, are long divisions, or little banks, crossing one another in all kinds of angles. They look like baulks, or meres, or divisions of ploughed lands, though the plough could not be used there; for they were really made of flints covered with turf, in which pens or hurdles might

have been placed; but they are too little for ploughed lands. Dr. Stukeley imagines them to have been divisions for the quarters or lodgment of the Britons, or their cattle; and observed such beyond Blandford, and at Great Dornford, in Wilts, near the river Avon. If so, these were summer quarters; for in winter the Britons lived chiefly in woods.

The Via Iceniana, which runs through this county, and the vicinal ways to facilitate the march of armies, and to preserve a communication between landing places and camps, and the many camps and groups of tumuli, point out the scenes of many remarkable actions. The walls and amphitheatre at Dorchester, coins and pavements found there and at other places, are all vestiges of the Roman power.

But no altar or stone inscribed with Roman characters, has been found in these parts. It might be, that after the time of Vespasian, the Roman forces being chiefly employed on the frontiers of Wales, and in the north of Britain, this was seldom, if ever, the seat of war; and therefore only slight garrisons were kept at Dorchester and Winbourn: at least history is silent, and great part of the works of Tacitus, Dio Cassius, Ammianus, Marcellinus, and other authors, from whence we might expect some information, are all unfortunately lost.

Agricola was the first who introduced the Roman manners among the Britons, and studied to conquer them not only by force of arms, but by endeavouring to soften, enervate, and civilize their fierce and martial spirit.

The Roman generals who commanded before him, according to Tacitus, were Plautius, Ostorius, Didius Gallus, Verannius, Suetonius Paulinus, Petronius Turpilianus, Trebellius Maximus, Vectius Bolanus, Petilius Ceralis, and Julius Frontinus, whom Agricola immediately succeeded.

The Roman camps in this county are at

Abbotsbury	Banbury, near Ockford.
Badbury	Fitzpain

Bulbarrow in Stoke Wake	Hodd-hill, in Stour-pain
Calstock	Kingston-Russel
Chilcomb	Knowlton
Cranbourn	Lambert-Castle in Martins' Town
Crawford	
Dudsbury, in West Parley	Milbourn-Stileham
Duntish, in Buckland Abbas	Melcomb-Horsey
	Poundbury, in Fordington
Eggerdon, in Litton	Pillsdon-hill
Flowersbarrow, in E. Lulworth	Shaftesbury
	Toller Fratrum
Hameldon, in Child Ockford	Woodbury-hill, in Bere-Regis

There are but two Roman stations in the county,

Durnovaria, Dorchester, and
Vindogladia, Winbourn

To which Dr. Stukeley adds, with some probability, *Ibernium*, or Bere-Regis.

The proofs of a station are, a Roman name, remains of Roman buildings, tiles, bricks, Mosaic pavements, a quantity of coins, and especially if preserved in urns, where those of the latest date will nearly indicate the time when they were concealed. To which we may add the names *Chester*, *Burgh*, and *Stratton*, and any affinity between the Roman and Saxon names, either in sound or sense, the Saxons generally building on Roman foundations. The situation, also, ought to be attentively considered, if it be on or near the Roman road, and near the confluence of two rivers, which last they particularly delighted in. We are to remember that they were the *castra stativa*, or winter quarters, and consequently their *castra æstiva*, or summer quarters, are to be expected in the same neighbourhood; as we find Maiden Castle, near Dorchester; Woodbury Hill near Bere-Regis, and Badbury, near Winbourn. Some stations were in time neglected and abandoned, and others more commodious were erected in their room. Some received different names at different periods of time; many are yet

dubious, or undiscovered; some went to ruin, and were never rebuilt, and have been levelled by the plough, and may be discovered, perhaps, not by industry, but chance; whilst others have been rebuilt, the old materials used, and their very ruins perished. These stations were erected, and the ways carried on, as the Romans extended their conquests. How long the former preceded the latter is hard to determine; but where ways continue, the communication between station and station, for the most part is in a straight line, a new station must be fixed before a way from a former could be laid out.

Mr. Horseley justly observes, that after all the light that can be collected from ancient writers, and other helps, we find ourselves too often left in the dark; which is not to be wondered at, when we consider the distance of time, the imperfect account left us of these matters, and the great alterations made in this island since these ages.

He proceeds with this reflection: "It will not be disagreeable to consider, that while we are searching after such stations and military ways, many fine towns and fruitful fields now stand in their places, and stop us in our pursuit. The change is doubtless very happy; and though it may afford an agreeable pleasure to an inquisitive mind, to view those marks and traces of slavery and subjection to a foreign power, yet it is certainly a more substantial happiness to feel ourselves a free people, and find our country, in most parts, a pleasant garden, instead of a series of Roman garrisons." Yet let it not be imagined that these conquests were without their use, or that they were permitted by Providence merely for the sake of aggrandizing the Roman name. The arts and sciences, which the Romans themselves received from the more civilized conquered nations, they introduced among the barbarous; and from this period the first dawn, which then appeared, has been gradually advancing

to the present light which we now enjoy, and is proceeding to its meridian splendour.

The *Via Iceniana* or *Ikenild Street*, takes its name from the *Iceni*, a people in Norfolk, where it began; but it is parallel to the *Foss* Way, and like that, extends 250 Roman miles. It must not be confounded with the *Ricining*, or *Rykenild Street*, which ran from N. E. to S. W. from Tinmouth to St. David's. Its direction is the same, and it begins at (*Venta Icenorum*) Castor, in Norfolk, three miles from Norwich, which rose out of its ruins; or rather at Castor near Yarmouth, or Burgh Castle (Garioneum.)

Dr. Stukeley travelled over the greater part of it, and generally traced it out with much exactness. He pursued it through part of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire; he found it range along the east border of Wiltshire, through or near Chute Forest, passing between Haradon Hill and the river Bourne, which it passes at Tudworth, thence to the east gate of Old Sarum; and by the name of Portlane crosses the river Avon at Stratford; ascends the hill, passes the united Nadre and Wiley, near Bemerton, where the Stonyford is visible, to Netherhampton; crosses the race course, Lord Pembroke's hare warren, and the brook at Stony Stratford; and goes along the Great Downs to Cranbourn Chace. Here he observed a remarkable diverticulum, and produces this as a demonstration, that it was begun from the S. W.; for as it came from the woods from Woodyates, it butts full on the end of a deep valley, where it was absolutely impracticable to carry the road in a strait line. Here the surveyor wisely gave way to nature, and turned it along sideway to the end of the valley, and with equal angle carried it forwards upon the upper and west side of it, in full direction to Old Sarum. It is a pleasure to observe the Roman methods in the conduct of such works, their artifices

and struggles between industry and the diversity and difficulty of ground and rivers.

Hence it passes through the woods to Vernditch lodge, a mile and a half east of Woodyates, where Mr. Aubrey, having never heard of those quarries before mentioned, observes, it is composed of pebbles, which are found no nearer than the New Forest, sixteen miles off. Here it is not very high nor broad. Just before it comes to Woodyates, it crosses the vallum and ditch that divides this county from Wilts, as is above described.

Having passed this ditch, it enters the county of Dorset, and before it reaches Woodyates Inn goes through an inclosure on the right hand of the road; after it has passed the inn, it becomes the road through the lane, where it was sometimes visible, especially at the end of it, before the turnpike road was made, though much injured. Here it was found to be composed of three layers of gravel, like sea-gravel, chalk and flint, each one foot and a half thick. When it comes out of the lane, it passes strait forward on the Downs, making an acute angle with the great Western Road, which goes on to Blandford on the right. On the Down it was broad, smooth, and generally high; but narrow, and rounding on the top, with a ditch at each side, and was composed of the above-mentioned materials. This part across the Down was perfectly entire, and might have continued so for ages more, but it was unfortunately too near a modern turnpike road; the surveyors observed it with an evil eye, and for the sake of the materials destroyed a work which they could not emulate.

About a mile from Woodyates Lane-end there is a convincing proof of its having been made since the Celtic barrows, of which here is a group; for the line of direction necessarily carries it over part of a Druid's barrow; which reduces it almost to a semicircle.

Hence it goes by Harley Wood, after which it

is not so high and broad as before. Hereabout much stone was used; and thence it passes between Gussage All Saints and Gussage St. Michael, where it is called *Ikling* or *Akling-dike* and *Aggleton* and *Eggletonditch*. Here the Doctor lost it, or rather being benighted, was obliged to go off to Blandford. But before this, imagining himself to be about 12 miles from Old Sarum, he stopped at Boreston, in Gussage All Saints, where he was informed by an old woman, that near this place was an old town: which Mr. Hutchins supposes to be Knowlton, where were formerly seven churches; and on this information he fixes *Bindogladia* there. At Knowlton is now a ruinated chapel, and the only building of that kind that ever existed there; it was never a place of any note, and though there are some imperfect works it is very uncertain whether they were Roman.

From the Gussages, where it crosses a little rivulet, it goes up the hill, where it has been dug away for chalk to supply a lime-kiln. Here the Doctor confesses he lost it in the great woods in Long Critchill. But it may be easily traced, for beyond the lime-kiln on the top of the hill, it is again visible, and passes under an hedge on the S. side of Holy-Down, in the parish of Moor Critchill, down to the pond, beyond which it enters the lane, but soon breaks out of it to the right, and is visible some yards; and then goes through a little coppice to an arable field, where only appears a small rising in a strait line through the middle of it; it then crosses the road, and passing through some hedge-rows and coppices, leaves Moor Critchill, and passes through Witehampton Common, at the end of which it is lost in a long lane, except that at the cross ways at Bradford Lane end it appears a little to the left, and crosses the corner of a ploughed field belonging to Helmswood, where it is obscure. It then reenters the lane, and the road and this way are the same. At the end of the lane it appears of a moderate height and breadth; goes through Bradford Down, and in the field next Badbury, quits the

straight line at an angle of 45 degrees to the right hand, that it might approach the N. entrance of Badbury Camp.

If Dr. Stukeley could conclude from this diverticulum beyond Woodyates, that it was begun from the S. W. here he might have found a probable instance of the contrary; for from that part where it goes off in an angle as before described, there are traces of a way continued straight on to the outside vallum on the N. E. part of the camp, which is to be discerned only by the difference of the strata; for this abounds with small pebbles which do not belong to the natural soil, and proceed in the old direction, but it is left unfinished, because the other extends more commodiously to the entrance of the camp. After this it crosses Badbury Down, and is traced into Shapwick Field, where it has been levelled by the plough. On the Down it was composed entirely of flint; the workmen not finding any other materials when they crossed it by the turnpike road from Blandford to Winbourn.

Mr. Taylor, in his map of the county, brings a road in a S. direction from Critchill and Wikhampton by Winbourn to Poole. If he intends this for a continuation of the *Via Iceniana*, he is entirely mistaken; if only as a vicinal way, the question is, whether there are any signs of its branching off in that place, and pursuing that direction across Kingston Field, which he assigns.

At Shapwick it crosses the river a little S. of the church, then crosses Shapwick Marsh, where the dorsum is low, but visible; then seems to turn to the left, and going up a grove to the top of the common field of Stourminster, (called probably from it Great Street Field,) turns short to the right, and runs on the highest ground, where the dorsum is faint, and in some places destroyed by the plough. It then makes a short turn to the left, and runs with a bold elevation to the inclosures of Almer. From hence it passed probably near Anderson to Winter-

bourn Kingston, where some remains of it appear. Not far from thence, and on Rope Common, a few yards of it appear again, pointing towards Milbourn, from whence to Stinsford no traces of it are discovered, and we can only guess where it goes by its direction. Near Stinsford dairy-house, at a clump of trees, it is visible again, but soon lost. On making Mrs. Pitt's new road through Fordington Moor, it was discovered nearly parallel to it, paved with flints and stones, under which was a layer of chalk, near the E. end of Dorchester, coming from Stinsford Lane. It pointed thence to the back side of the jail, the north side of St. Peter's, and through Trinity Church.

At the west end of Dorchester it appears again in perfection, high and broad, paved with flint and stone: but Dr. Stukeley's map of Dorchester carries it through Fordington on the east of the church, and makes it wind round the south and part of the west side of Dorchester, which must be an error of the engraver, and not of a person who surveyed it with great attention. When it is past Dorchester it goes on for four miles on the Exeter road, which now turns off to Winterbourn Abbas; but this being itself the old western road, goes on to Eggerdon hill, very perfect on the top, flint covered with turf, flat stones placed on the borders, with a ditch on each side: here it is called *Ridgeway*, on account of its dorsum, and its taking the ridge of an hill, and commanding a large prospect of the adjacent country.

From the top of Eggerdon hill, if you go down the hill, leaving the camp half a mile north, which was the old road from Dorchester to Bridport, it is very visible and well preserved, till toward the bottom, where it grows obscure, and passes on the north of Askerswell, and seems to have fallen into the present road to Bridport; but Dr. Stukeley says, he found it north of that town.

On the top of Eggerdon hill, within a mile and an half of the camp, is an obscure vicinal way, branch-

ing out from the *Via Iceniana* N. W. and passing through the middle of the camp from the S. E. to the N. W. gate, whence it goes to Poorstock. Dr. Stukeley makes this the principal, but it must have been a vicinal way.

At Seaton, a station in Dorsetshire, the Fosse-way meets it, and ends there. The Iceniana goes on in a different, but necessary, direction westward to *Exeter*.

It has been the opinion of many antiquaries, that the Romans never extended their conquests beyond the Tamar, and in the Itinerary of Antonine there is no station west of Exeter. But Richard of Cirencester, in his first book *De Situ Britanniæ*, and in his map, gives the names of several towns, rivers, and promontaries, particularly *Antivestæum Promontorium*, near Penross, viz. Land's-End, among the Carnabii, and in his XVIth Iter places four stations W. of Exeter, whereof the last two are in Cornwall. Ptolemy mentions three towns W. of Exeter, *Tamare*, *Voliba*, and *Uxella*.

But the account Mr. Borlase gives in his History of Cornwall, of a great number of Roman coins, sepulchres, urns, tumuli, pateræ, some camps, and fortifications, Roman towns, and several remains of Roman ways, which he mentions in different parts of his work, puts this matter beyond all question; and, were all other authorities wanting, these would of themselves be indisputable proofs that in the western parts of this island the Romans knew no other bounds to their empire but the ocean.

Besides the way thus continued through the county in the line above marked out, others must be occasionally mentioned, of inferior consideration, calculated chiefly for the convenience of those legions and auxiliary troops which were stationed in these parts, and designed for lines of communication: these are distinguished by the name of Vicinal Ways.

ROADS.

The turnpike-roads, in the chalky districts, are

repaired by flints; but limestone broken with hammers, is the principal material used in the public and private roads in the other parts of the county. The roads on the dry soils have a sufficient convexity to throw off the water, which, in sudden showers, runs into small pools on the side of the road, and is soon dried up. The bye roads in some parts of the vale of Blackmoor, and in the western district, are scarcely passable in winter, and are very unpleasant in summer, from the large loose stones that abound in them.

BRIDGES.

Over the Stour is Kingsmill Bridge, Sturminster Newton Bridge, built with stone; Tarent Bridge, Blandford Bridge, Whitmill, Crawfurd, Julien's, Hayward, Canford, and Longham bridges.

RIVERS.

Frome rises near Evershot, and runs from thence to Frome, St. Quintin, Chelmington, Calstock, Chilfrome, Maiden Newton, Frome, Vauchurch, Cruckston, Frampton, Muckleford, Bradford, Peverel, and Charminster; above which last it branches from several islands, and joins again near Dorchester. It passes thence by Frome, Whitfield, Stainsford, Fordington, and Bockhampton, between which last and Ilsington, at Frome Belet, it receives the Winterborn; thence runs to Woodford, Tincleton, Moreton, Wool, Burdon, East Stoke, East Holme, and Wareham; and three miles below the last falls into Poolbay. This is the true course of the Frome, which is marked by the several places denominated from it, from Frome St. Quintin, to Frome Belet.

Leland says, some suppose the farthest spring of Frome is at Rentford, two miles above Hook Park; but that the most common opinion is that it rises in a great pond in Hook Park. From Frampton he traces it right; and adds, that Fordington Bridge was of stone, and that Holme Bridge had four arches.

Mr. Baxter says the British name was *Var* or *Varii*, from *Wye*, Water, and *Var*, q. d. *unda mansucta*;

and that the river is synonymously called Frau and Frome, from a dialect of the Scoto-Brigantines, among whom Freu, and Freum, signifies a stream, or river. Fraü, in British, means the same; in another dialect, *Rhig*, and *Rhiü*, which agree with the Latin *rivus*, from the Greek ῥεῖν, in the Eolic dialect φρεῖν, to flow. Camden from Asser, shews that *Frau* was the Saxon name of this river, and *Freu*, in British, signifies to flow; whence the ancient palace of the British kings in the Isle of Anglesea, was called from the neighbouring river *Aber-Fraw*, quasi *Fraumæ Ostium*. That Var was another name for Frome is evident from the modern name of Warham, q. d. *ad Variam*, a dwelling on the Var. There is a river still called Var in France.

Hollinshed and Camden rightly place the source of this river at Evershot, or as the latter spells it, Evarshot, in which is preserved the British name of Var. Hollinshed says it is improperly called Frome for *Frame;* he should have said *Fraum*.

Into this river fall the following rivulets:

One at Catstock from Benvil-Lane in Corscomb by Rampisham and Wraxhall.

Another from Compton Valence, at Frampton.

Near Notten, a brook that rises in Winfreath Eagle.

At Maiden Newton, the Hook.

At Muckleford, the rivulet from Upsideling, by Sidling, St. Nicholas, and Grimston.

At Charminster, the Cern.

At Luckford, W. of Stoke, it receives Luckford Lake.

N. of Stafford, the S. Winterburn.

Bridges over it are, one of four arches at West Holmer, Wool Bridge of five arches, Great and Little Mohuns Bridge, Stocking Bridge, and Mrs. Pitt's Bridge of three arches, near Dorchester.

Hooke, or *Owke*, rises at Kentcomb, two miles above Hooke Park, or in the great pond in Hook Park, and passing by the Tollers falls into the Frome at Maiden Newton. Leland says, a stream

out of the pond in Hook Park comes into the Frome.

Ivel, anciently *Yoo*, rises from seven springs, called the Seven Sisters, at a place commonly called Horethorn, in a hill, N. E. from Sherborne, thence soon gathering into one bottom comes to the mere at the end of the castle, and runs on the S. side of the town, and thence, increased by another brook, to Castleton, Sherborne, Thornford, Bradford, Clifton, and Yeovil. About Sherborne Lower Mill, a brook of much like quantity comes by Heydon from Purse Candel, three miles E. between the park and mere, and runs in W. by the bottom without the park, between it and Sherborne water. This last water runs three or more miles to Clifton, and soon after falls into the Ivel. So Leland: but in the M. S. notes of some unknown writer on him, printed by Hearne, we are told that the spring is not at Purse Candel, but at Milborne Week, two miles from Sherborne, and called Bradley Spring. This stream supplies two mills at Milborn Port, and thence runs through Milborn Moor to a mill at Goathill, and so down along by the park wall, through Lord Digby's gardens, and Dinny Bridge, to an overshot mill, where it joins the Seven Sisters.

At Langport this river receives the Parret, and under its name falls into the sea at Stert Point. Baxter derives the name of Ivel from *Ui vel* or *Gui bel*, q. d. undæ caput.

Near Bradford it receives a forked rill from the S. from about W. Chelbury and Chetnol; below which last village the other head falls into the same, and both proceed to Beer Hacket and Thornford, till they meet the Ivel; which is between Clifton and Yeovil, and beyond the latter, becomes a boundary between this county and Somerset.

A brook that rises at Ryne falls into it at Bradford.

Bridges on the River Ivel are, one of seven stone arches, a little above Bradford, another about a mile from Clifton, a third in the way to Sherborne; others at Yeovil and Ilchester.

Piddle rises N. of Piddle Trenthyde Church, and passing thence by several villages, to which it gives name, to the N. side of Wareham, falls into the sea, near Keysworth. Leland, and after him Hollinshed, quotes Marianus Scotus as speaking of this river. It is called *Trent* by Asser. Mr. Baxter derives this name from the British *Troüent*, a winding river, Mr. Lluyd, says *Pydeau*, in British, signifies a draw-well or mine. This is commonly called Wareham N. river, as the Frome is the S. river.

A little N. of Piddle-Trenthyde Church it receives a little brook that rises at Alton; and a little lower, another from Plush.

A brook that rises at Hilton, and runs by Milton, Milburne, and Bere, falls into it near Turner's Piddle.

Another from Chesilborn through Dewlish, falls into it at Burleston.

Stour, one of the most considerable rivers of this county, through which it takes the greatest part of its course, though it neither rises nor empties itself in it, rises from six heads, three of which lie on the N. side of Stourton Park, within the pales, the other three without the park, in Sir R. C. Hoare's garden. After the union of these it goes to Long-Lane Mill, Silton, Milton, and Gillingham, below which last it gives name to several villages, Stour Provost, Stour Pan, Sturminster, Newton, and Marshall.

It runs thence to Blandford, Winborn, Canford Parley, from whence it enters Hampshire, and falls into the sea at Christ Church, through Iver Bridge. Its course is from N. W. to N. E.

It receives Shreen Water and the Ladden near Gillingham; and below Gillingham a nameless water from Meere.

Below Stour Provost Cale water.

Near Hinton St. Mary, the Dewlish and Lidden in one channel.

Above Bagbere, a water that rises at Ibberton.

Near Hamoon, a water that comes from Hargrove,

or Sutton Walrond, as Coker, by West Orchard, and another from Fontmel.

Near Tarent-Crawford the Tarent.

Near Sturminster Marshall the South Winterborn.

At Winborn, the Allen.

At Holmhurst, in Hampshire, it takes in two brooks in one bottom, one comes from Woodland Park by Holt and Holt Park; another from above Up-Winborn, by Edmondesham, Verswood, and Mannington, and joining about St. Leonard's, they go to Hern Bridge, and so into the Stour. Another rises at Mapounder, and passing by Kingstag Bridge, and Plumber, falls into the rivulet that comes from Duntish, and both join the Stour near Hinton.

Mr. Baxter derives Sdora, or Stora, (Bdora, as Ravennas) from *Eas dur aqua profluens. Dour* or *Dur* was a general name for water among the Britons, as *Dour* in Irish. There are several rivers of the name of Stour in England, in Worcestershire, and Kent; two in Piedmont are still called *Stura;* others there and in France, *Doria, Doira, Doire, Dore, Dour.*

The vicinity of this river to the Avon *(Alauna)* where they fall into the sea near Christ Church, seems to have occasioned some mistakes.

This river yields trout, eels, and tench, which last is observable because that fish generally delights in ponds and pits.

CANALS.

The want of canals in this county has long been remarkable, and one project of this kind after an expenditure of many thousand pounds, was laid aside. It is still in agitation to form a canal from Somersetshire, by Chardstock in Dorsetshire, to the sea near Beer and Seaton, in the county of Devon.

AGRICULTURE.

The greater proportion of land in Dorsetshire is in pasturage, Ewe Leas, or Downs for sheep.

The greater part is uneven ground, and much of

it very hilly; it has chiefly a high cliff towards the coast, and a very small proportion of marshy or fen land.

The most striking feature of the county is the open and uninclosed parts, covered by numerous flocks of sheep scattered over the Downs, which are in general of a delightful verdure and smoothness, affording a scene beautifully picturesque.

The Vale of Blackmoor extends from north to south, about 19 miles from Gillingham and Silton, to Dawlish and May Powder; and from east to west from Compton and Sutton about 14 miles, to North Wotton and Long Burton; and contains upwards of 170,000 acres of very rich land, chiefly grazing, dairying, and about one-tenth part in arable, with some plantations of orchards.

Through this vale runs the river Stower, which is now undergoing a great improvement from the general act of sewers, by cutting down the sides and removing obstructions, which will tend to the general drainage of the county, and be a lasting improvement. Some of the land upon the side of this river is rich enough for an acre and a quarter to carry a full-sized Devonshire ox through the summer. Most of the hay in this vale is of an excellent quality, and beasts thrive well through the winter upon it, without any other food. An average value of it to the farmer is forty shilings, but if sold to towns, it produces fifty shillings a ton. One ton of hay will keep an ox twelve weeks, allowing him one hundred weight and a half per week, which is sufficient to last from Christmas to the middle of April; the profit upon the ox is estimated at 5l. a head each; and barren cows and heifers are reckoned to pay 50s. per head each.

The country north of Sherborne, which adjoins the vale of Blackmoor, affords some of the best arable land in the county. The soil is a stone brash, very easy to work, and about three parts in four are ploughed, The rent is estimated here at about a

guinea an acre, and turnips are much grown, generally after a wheat crop.

The arable land in the open parts of the county is very much upon a chalk bottom, and all the way towards the coast by Abbotsbury and Weymouth is of an inferior quality.

The arable land in the Island of Portland is a stone brash, and likewise in most parts of the Isle of Purbeck, which is said to be very fruitful, and that part of Purbeck called the Golden Bowl, to produce three quarters of wheat per acre. In the centre of the county, which is a very fine part of it, the soil is good in quality, and the land well managed; some excellent turnips are grown here by a few farmers only, both broadcast and drilled, but in general they are not hoed, nor is the land prepared for them properly.

The open and uninclosed parts are in general poor land, and will average at a rent of 10s. per acre, including meadow, ewe leas, tillage, and downs. But the converting the upland pastures into a course of tillage for a few years, and then laying them down again, would enable the farmer to keep more than he can do at present, and be a general benefit, by increasing the growth of corn.

SHEEP.

The advantage derived from sheep in the county of Dorset is very considerable, and is undoubtedly its greatest object as an agricultural resource; indeed of so much real importance, as to be productive of great national benefit. The number of sheep kept in the county, from the best enquiry and computation, amount to upwards of 800,000.

To describe the true Dorset sheep may be difficult, as to its size and shape; but Mr. Clarridge apprehends the face and nose being white, and the claws or feet without any mixture of colour, the forehead woolly, and the face long and broad, the horn round and bold, and projecting rather forward, a broad shoulder, straight back, broad loin, deep carcase, and

short in the leg, is the nearest to the true description of a Dorset sheep.

The wool produced in this county is short and fine, of a close texture, and the quality of it highly esteemed in the manufactory of that staple commodity called broad-cloth. It is sold here by weys, or weights of *thirty-one* pounds standing.

It is generally understood, that the original breed of the Dorset sheep is very scarce to be met with, as most of the farmers have crossed their flocks with the breed of the Hants, Wilts, and Somersetshire sheep, which have certainly improved them as to size.

HORSES AND CATTLE.

The farmers' horses here, though not ill-shaped, have a very mean appearance. They are from fifteen hands to fifteen and a half high, and are short legged, and have good hoofs, and bony legs, rather lengthy in the carcass, but not in the extreme; strong in the hind quarters, and broad in the breast; their shoulders do not fall backward, but stand upright, and a cart-horse is better to be so made; the collar fits in a more proper manner for work, and is not so liable to choak in going up the steep hills of the county. Their neck is rather short and low, the head rather large; they have not a smart look, but their eyes are rather dull. Now this horse is nevertheless not ill adapted for labour; many experienced waggoners and drivers of teams observe, that a smart quick look in a horse denotes a hasty and passionate temper, while there is a degree of coolness required in cart horses; and high spirit is rather a fault than a perfection in them.

The oxen chiefly fed in the county are of the Devonshire breed, and sent, when fat, to Smithfield market, and are said to be the finest meat in the kingdom. These are mostly fed in the vale of Blackmoor.

The other cattle grazed here are either home-bred or heifers, brought from Ringwood, and other Hamp-

shire fairs; and when fat, supply the home market, and sometimes are sent to Salisbury.

The breed of pigs in this county, is not so good in shape as either the Hampshire, Berkshire, or Hertfordshire sort; they are of a light colour, feed to about nine or ten score on an average for bacon.

COMMON AND WASTE LANDS.

Of the commons in Dorsetshire, the greater part of them in the inclosed country are stinted, one horse, or two beasts to a lea; the horse leas are estimated worth thirty shillings, and half that sum for a beast. The land, in general over-run with furze and ant-hills, does not, in its present state, return more than seven or eight shillings per acre; but most of them highly proper to cultivate, and if inclosed would be worth eighteen or twenty shillings an acre, as lime for manure is so easily obtained.

The greatest proportion and extent of waste lands in the county, is in its south-eastern part, from below Beer-Regis, southward, towards Lulworth and the sea, extending all the way to Corfe Castle, Wareham, and Poole, from thence towards Christchurch, in Hampshire, and within a small distance of Winbourn Minster, the greater part of which, except a few cultivated parishes which intersected it, is, in its present state, a most dreary waste; and almost the only advantage derived from it at this time, is the support in summer of a few ordinary cattle and sheep, and the heath which is pared up by the surrounding villages for fuel.

The towns of Wareham and Poole, which are situated most contiguous to this uncultivated country, are of considerable consequence, and the latter is by much the greatest port in the county, and where at least 200 sail of shipping are said to belong; and an expensive trade is carried on to Newfoundland, which imports above two thousand tons of seal oil annually, besides one thousand tons of train oil.

QUARRIES.

The isle, or rather the peninsula of Portland, is

about four miles and a half in length, and two in breadth. It has long been famous for its free-stone, and is, in fact, one continued bed of it. It is said that Portland stone was first brought into use and reputation in the time of James I., who, by the advice of his architects, employed it in the construction of the banquetting house at Whitehall. After the fire of London, it was much used by Sir Christopher Wren, in constructing the different public edifices. Dr. Maton remarks, that the name of *free-stone*, is very expressive of the useful property of the Portland Stone, in enduring to be cut in any direction, whether horizontal, perpendicular, or parallel to the site of the strata, while it bears the injuries of the weather equally well in every position. The raising of the stone is a most laborious business, employing upwards of one hundred men to break down a large jam of it. Afterwards, it is divided into blocks, and then conveyed to the shore by horses on low cars with solid wheels, which carry astonishing weights; sometimes, six tons; and when going down hill, they tie behind them a sledge, loaded with a large stone, which prevents the car from pressing forwards on the horse. One shilling per ton is paid to the owner of the land for breaking ground; six shillings per ton is paid to the workmen for raising and quartering it; and the price of carriage to the shore, varies as to distance from sixpence to half a crown per ton; fourteen shillings per ton in time of war, and ten in time of peace. Some of these stones weigh four, and some five tons each; but the general estimate is, that a hundred blocks will weigh eighty tons. There are many proprietors of quarries on the island; but those called the King's Quarries, are, by far, the most considerable. From 30 to 40,000 tons of this stone are annually shipped off from the island. The inhabitants of the island of Portland, are about 1,700; quarrymen and boys employed, about 800; ships in the trade, about

50; burthen from 80 to 140 tons. About 180 horses are employed in the trade, and the common load of a car is about three tons. The price of stone is from 16s. to 24s. per ton of 16 cubic feet, and there is a duty on the stone, when delivered, amounting to about 6s. per ton. The quarrymen demand 11s. a ton for digging and squaring; and it generally costs 6s. a ton more before it is exported; and about 250 people are employed in this business. Many of the birds called *wheat ears* are caught on this island, and sold at Weymouth. A woman, in Portland, obtained a reward from the Society of Arts, for the discovery that starch may be profitably extracted from the common herb, arum, or cuckow-point. These plants are called *starchmoors* in Portland, and lords and ladies in Bedfordshire.

The quarries, shores, and cliffs on the south side of *Purbeck*, afford an inexhaustible fund of natural curiosities. The quarries are chiefly near Kingston Worth, Langton, and Swannage. In many parts of the island is a stone that rises thin, and is used for tiling; also a hard paving stone, which sweats against change of weather.

This is the *ammites* or *hammites*, sand-stone, or free stones, of various colours and qualities. At Swannage, is a white stone full of shells, which takes a polish, and looks like alabaster; there is another of the same sort, but not so hard. The *Cornua ammones* are frequently found in stone in the quarries, some two or three feet in diameter. All over the heath in this island, and about Wareham and Morden, a stone of an iron colour is found, called fire stone. It rises in blocks, sometimes very large; the surface is hard and smooth; but the inside is of a gritty sandy substance, and there is a kind of quarry of it at East Holme.

Mr. Chenchen, of Swannage, estimates the exports of Purbeck stone, at 38,750 tons in the five years preceding 1801. The sort is mostly flag

stones for paving, and the greater part are sent to London; the quantity carried inland, is about 150 tons a year. The men employed in stone work, earn about 20s. per week, and including boys, amount to 300.

A considerable stratum of potter's clay is found at various depths in several parts of the sandy districts in the vicinity of Wareham, Poole, and Corfe Castle; principally at Norden, near this place, and by means of an iron railway, is conveyed to Poole harbour for exportation. From sixteen to twenty thousand tons of potter's clay are annually exported from Purbeck to Liverpool, mostly for the supply of the potteries in Staffordshire.

About three or four thousand tons of an inferior kind of clay, are annually exported from Poole to London and Bristol, where it is used for making brown stone-ware, such as pickling jars, &c. The bad clay will not burn white, and the particles of iron cause blisters. The clay, in general, is dug by the day; it being an operation that requires care.

FISHERIES.

The fish obtained on the coast of Dorsetshire are of various descriptions; but the mackerel fishery is the most considerable. The Stour yields trout, eels, and tench, which last is observable, because that species of fish generally delight in ponds and pits. The sea on the Dorsetshire coast, abounds with sturgeons, turbots, mackarel, place, soles, basse, whitings, congers, porpoises, lobsters, red and grey mullet, thornbacks, piper or gurnet, frill or scollop, shrimps, prawns, and oysters. The rivers furnish salmon, pike, carp, gudgeons, perch. The only considerable fishery is, that of mackarel between Lyme and Portland, from April to June: thirty or forty thousand have been caught at a draught near Abbotsbury, and a hundred have been sold for a penny.

FARM-HOUSES.

Many of the farm-houses, particularly those belonging to the large farms on the chalky district,

are of very ancient buildings, and have all the appearance of having been the seats of the proprietors in former times. They are mostly built with stone, and many of the ancient family mansions are covered with stone tiles, and have window frames likewise of stone, and turrets, battlements, and pointed arches, and carved work in the Gothic style. Buildings of this kind may be seen at Athelhampston, Waterson, &c. The more ordinary farm-houses, though generally built of stone, are frequently covered with reed thatch.

RENT AND SIZE OF FARMS, &c.

Estates in Dorsetshire are generally large, and, consequently, the owners are but few in comparison with those of most other countries. The farmers have in general abandoned their old wretched system of sowing three crops of corn, and have substituted in its stead, that of taking a crop of turnips after wheat, with barley and grasses. Some of the principal estates are under the care of land surveyors; others are managed by practical farmers, and some large properties are superintended by gentlemen of the law. Some of the land stewards seem to be well convinced, that for the encouragement of improvements, the farmers should have a better kind of security than they generally obtain.

The copyhold tenures in this county are now become very few, and consist chiefly of a mere cottage and garden, without any other lands being attached to them. There are other lifehold tenures of far greater extent, which are held by lease of two or three lives, or for ninety-nine years. The proportion of freehold in this county, compared with what is held by other tenures, is in favour of freehold, in proportion of four to one. On the whole, it may be said, that in Dorsetshire, life-tenure is wearing out, and fee-simple more and more prevailing. The inhabitants of Portland are almost all freeholders; their tenure is *Gavel-kind*, whereby the lands of the father are equally divided at his

death among all his sons; or the land of a brother or a sister, among all their brethren, if they have no issue of their own.

In many parts of Dorsetshire, one man occupies a whole hamlet, parish, or lordship, perhaps from one thousand, or fifteen hundred acres to two thousand, which has been too frequently made by laying five or six farms together. It is evident that the substitution of large farms for small ones, has not proved advantageous to the county of Dorset, and with respect to sheep-farms, &c., it has been remarked, that the land which supports one hundred cows, would form a material addition to the comforts of *ten families*, and take away none of the real happiness of the present possessors. The average rent of the land in the several districts in this county, is, of course, very different. In the western part, the average is about 30s. per acre, and the arable land, about 20s. At Chittle, the rent is from 30s. to 40s. per acre.

LEASES.

Leases of twenty-one years' duration, were common till near the end of the last century; but proprietors, in general, now think it improper to put the management of their estates out of their own power for so long a period. And though it is supposed that one half of this county is under lease, yet its duration is mostly for the term of only seven years; and in many very recent cases, the leases have been limited even to three years. No circumstance threatens agriculture with more fatal consequences, than the unwillingness on the part of the landlords to let their farms on long leases, at least of fourteen or twenty-one years' continuance. Yet, in consequence of the recent depreciation of the value of money, much may be said in favour of the landholder.

ENCLOSURES.

In the chalky district there are many open downs, and such as are enclosed in portions of fifty or a

hundred acres each. There are also several open fields which are cultivated in a three or four years' course of cropping, consisting almost entirely of white corn. The heath land is almost entirely unenclosed, except the parts occupied for plantations, which are surrounded by sod banks, with furze sown on the tops of them; this is one of the best kinds of fences for enclosures on a barren soil. According to recent acts of parliament, several more parishes, besides Gillingham, are to be enclosed. Canford Heath has been lately divided by act of parliament, and extensive plantations of firs made of various kind.

TITHES.

This county appears to be more generally subject to tithes than is the case in most other parts of England. The average amount of them on the arable, pasture, and meadow land, has been estimated at 3s. 6d. an acre; that of the commons at 8d.; open downs at 4d. and heaths at one penny per acre. Still this county is remarkable for the number of parishes in which a very low modus has been long established in lieu of vicarial tithes.

The great tithes of many parishes are in lay hands, and the composition is frequently five or six shillings in the pound, rent. Those at Great Canford, as seven or eight shillings in the pound.

FENCES.

A part of the open fields next to the downs, is often fenced with low dead hedges on a broad sod bank, which being made of hazel, and sometimes with real hedge hurdle, with proper attention, will last three years. The gates here are generally well made; but in some places very awkward and disagreeable substitutes are made use of, consisting of there flat planks, the ends of which are inserted into mortices in both the posts, and fastened by wooden pins. In the island of Purbeck, and about Upway, the fences consist of loose stone with a few bushes under the topmost stones, to prevent the

sheep from climbing over them. Hazel hedges spread to a considerable width, are very general on chalky soils, and are sometimes mixed with dogwood, maple, &c; and sometimes consist wholly of privet. In a few cases fences are made by setting flat stones up edgeways, and stiles also, in order that they may not be carried away and burned.

IRON RAILWAYS.

A road of this kind, three miles and a half in length, was made in 1806, from the pits of potter's clay at Norden near Corfe Castle, to a place opposite Poole, where the clay is shipped. The ends of the rails are supported on stones of 60 or 70 pounds weight, in each of which a hole is made to receive an oak plug; to this the rails are fastened by means of a large-headed nail, driven between the contiguous ends through a small cavity left for that purpose. The small carriages that convey clay here have four iron wheels, and carry two tons each; three horses draw ten tons to the sea side three times a day, at the expence of about six-pence a ton weight.

CARRIAGES AND IMPLEMENTS.

The Dorsetshire waggon is a light good sort of vehicle, similar to that of Berkshire, but the Dorsetshire people challenge it as their own. The wheels are often set five feet apart; the waggons are in most cases neatly put together, and cost from 35l. to 40l. The carriages used in carrying manure, earth, &c. are called *dung pots*, or puts, and are not unlike the Bedfordshire carts. Some farmers use *slid pots*, or sliding carts, for removing earth: they are more than a yard long, but less in width. The wheel barrows of the county are of a very simple construction. A kind of hand-barrow is also used, consisting of two handles, connected by a kind of hedge work of hazel, and made hollow in the middle. Weighing engines and sowing troughs have been introduced by Mr. Bridge of Winford Eagle. There are several horse drag-rakes in this county, and the

Dorsetshire flake hurdles are from four and a half to six feet long, and consist, almost invariably, of ten stakes; these hurdles are the most economical and useful that can be made.

Besides the common spades and shovels, one of the latter, of a triangular form, is used here, the plate is ten or twelve inches wide, and twelve or thirteen inches long from the socket; the handle is long and turned upwards considerably to prevent the necessity of much stooping in using it. Ploughs and harrows, and the rest of the indispensable implements of husbandry, are of various kinds in this county, generally embracing the most recent improvements and discoveries.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The bushel used here agrees with the standard measure, but coals and culm are sold by the double bushel, eighteen of which make a chaldron. At Weymouth two thirds of a double bushel is supposed to be contained in the measure, and one third heaped up as long as the coals will lie on. A bushel of coals here should weigh 1½ weight, but the bad coals weigh more. Eight gallons make a bushel of flax seed, but nine bushels of hemp seed is five pecks, nine gallon measure. Corn is sold here by the sack of four bushels, and the same quantity of lime is called a hogshead; 40 bushels are called a load of wheat.

At Sherborne, Bridport, &c. meat is generally reckoned by the score, (lb.) but the stone of 14lb. is in use. A pound of butter in some parts of the county is 18 ounces.

Wool is sold by the wey, (or weight as it is called) and it is customary to allow a pound or half a pound over in some places. A weight of hemp is 32lb.

Land is measured by the goad or lug of 15 feet and an inch. A customary acre is therefore equal to about 134 square poles, statute measure. The customary measures seem to be more used in the western, than in the eastern parts of the county.

MANUFACTURES.

The principal manufactory in this county is that of flax and hemp in the vicinity of Bridport and Beaminster, where all sorts of twine, string, packthread, netting, cordage, and ropes are made, from the finest thread used by saddlers, in lieu of silk, to the cable which holds the first-rate man of war. The sail-cloth is made in pieces of about 40 yards each, yard wide, and worth from 15d. to 17d. per yard. Sacks for grain and flour are also made here, and those without a seam to hold each four bushels, nine gallons measure, at 37s. per dozen. At Loders, and many other places, young girls are employed in weaving sail-cloth; towards Weymouth many of the women braid nets for the Newfoundland fishery. In the neighbourhood of Shaftesbury, swanskin, a kind of flannel, or a coarse woollen cloth for soldiers' clothing, is manufactured from 18d. to 2s. per yard. At Sturminster Newton, about 1200 people are employed in it, and where between 4000 and 5000 pieces, containing 35 yards in length, in a piece yard wide, are annually made. Worsted stockings are knit in great abundance for sale at Wareham, Corfe Castle, Winbourne, and many other intermediate places.

At Sherborne, Stalbridge, and Cerne Abbas, there are manufactories for twisting and making up raw silk into skeins. The manufacture of shirt-buttons is extensively carried on at Shaftesbury and Blandford, and the surrounding villages on all sides; and also in the vale of Blackmoor, and in several parishes in the Isle of Purbeck. Women could formerly earn 10 or 12s. per week at making shirt-buttons; but lately, seldom more than 6 or 7s. The first operation is to *cast* or cover the wire; this is often done by children six or eight years of age; they are afterwards *filled* by more expert hands.

Among other small manufactories are those of *Lobsterpots*, which are a kind of wicker baskets with a small hole at the top.

Malting and brewing are carried on at Wareham, Dorchester, &c., and malt is exported to Portsmouth and London. At Bridport there is an iron foundery, and another at Winford Eagle. At Beaminster are two potteries for coarse ware; at Broad Winsor much woollen yarn is spun. At Canford Magna there are two rope-yards. At Cerne Abbas, a small dowlas manufactory, and a great many shoemakers. At Cranbourne, a pottery for coarse earthen ware. At Fifehead Neville, woollen swanskin is made; and a Gillingham bed ticking. At Lytchet Minster twine is spun. At Melbury Osmond stay-makers' tape is manufactured, known by the name of Melbury iron tape, and dowlas is wove. At North Chardstock is a tobacconist and snuff maker. At Oborn cloth and parchment are made, and serge at Stockland. At Stoke Abbots sail cloth, sacking, and narrow cloth are manufactured. At Stourton Caundle, swanskin from lambs' wool. At Swannage many of the inhabitants are employed in plaiting straw. The dealers in grocery, cloth, &c. who employ women to make shirt-buttons, it is said, generally contrive to pay the greater part of their wages in goods rather than money, by which means they have nothing left to support them in case of sickness.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

These consist of hundreds, boroughs, and tithings; viz. thirty-four hundreds, eight borough towns, twenty-two liberties, and four hundred and thirty tithings. The county is in the diocese of Bristol, and is divided into five deaneries; the archdeacon of Dorset has the jurisdiction of the whole diocese of Bristol, in which this county is entirely included.

LITERARY AND LEARNED MEN.

Anthony Ashley Cowper, grandfather to the celebrated author of the Characteristics, was born at Wimborne in 1621, and died in 1683.—Charles Seldon, a poet of more wit than wisdom, was born at Gillingham about 1666, died 1723.—Robert Goadby, Printer, a man of sterling value, rational piety, and distinguished industry, was born at Sherborne;

besides several other books, he published a very elaborate and rational comment, entitled "An illustration of the Scriptures," in three large folio volumes; he died in 1778.—The Rev. John Hutchins, author of the "History and Antiquities" of this County, was born in 1693, died 1773.—Giles Hussey, an ingenious portrait painter, was born at Manhull in 1710, and died in June 1788.—Christopher Pitt, a very ingenious poet and divine, was born at Blandford, 1699, died 1748.—The celebrated Bishop Stillingfleet, was born at Cranbourne, 1635. Dr. Sydenham, one of the most learned and rational physicians of his time, was born at Woodford, 1624, died 1689. Sir James Thornhill, the painter, was born in this county, 1676, died 1732.—Archbishop Wake was born at Blandford in 1657.—The learned and ingenious antiquary, Dr. Browne Willis, one of the revivers of the society of Antiquaries, was born at Blandford in 1682, died 1760.—Thomas Creech, an ingenious poet and divine was born at Blandford in 1659. He translated many of the ancient authors, as Juvenal, Horace, Lucretius, &c. and like this author, died by his own hand.—Sir George Sommers, an eminent merchant and navigator, was born at Lyme, in the reign of James I. From Sir George the Bermudas obtained the name of the summer islands. Winborne Minster claims the birth of Matthew Prior, the poet, though there is much contradictory evidence between this place and Winborne in Middlesex. Thomas Coram, the benevolent founder and contriver of the Foundling charity in London, was born at Lyme, 1667, died 1751. James Granger, author of the celebrated biographical History of England, was born at Sherborne in 1737, died 1799. The Rev. Maurice Wheeler, who published the first Oxford Almanack, 1673, in 8vo. of which nearly 30,000 copies were sold; was born at Winborne, St. Giles. The Newspapers published in this County are the Sherborne Mercury, and the Dorsetshire Journal.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF DORSET.

Journey from Axminster in Dorsetshire, toward Salisbury in Wiltshire; through Bridport, Dorchester, and Blandford.

About five miles from Axminster on the high road, we pass through *Charmouth*, a beautiful village, in a very romantic situation, commanded by lofty hills at each end. This delightful village occupies an elevated situation, and consequently commands many vast and beautiful prospects both of sea and land. It has also the advantage of being a considerable thoroughfare, and laying so near Lyme, it is much resorted to by bathers. The beach is pebbly, and in all its advantages and disadvantages, *Charmouth* partakes of the qualities of its neighbour and rival. The fisheries at both places present a constant scene of useful activity. Not far from hence the river Char empties itself into the sea. It is a small but remarkably agreeable place, enjoying a fine sea air. "The cliffs, which are chiefly composed of indurated marl, abound with *madrepore*, *ammonitæ*, *belemnitæ*, and skeletons of fishes, and other animals, in a fossil state. The *Ludus Helmonti* is common here, and it is difficult to persuade the vulgar that it is not a *fossil turtle*. All curious productions of this nature are diligently collected by a man living at Charmouth, who is generally known throughout the county by the name of the *Curi-man*. There is a good deal of pyrites and bituminous matter in the soil, which has often taken fire after heavy rains, and produced an appearance of flames at a distance. A remarkable instance of this is recorded by Mr. Hutchins, in the following words: "In August 1531, after very hot weather, followed by sudden rains, the cliffs near Charmouth began to smoke, and soon after to burn with a visible but subtle flame. The same phenomena were observed at intervals, especially after rains, till winter; the flame, however, was not visible by day, except the sun

shone, when the cliffs appeared at a distance as if covered with pieces of glass, which reflected the rays; at night the flame was visible at a distance: but when the spectator drew near, he could perceive only smoke. On examining the cliffs, a great quantity of martial pyrites was found with marcasites, that yielded near a tenth of common sulphur, *cornua ammonis*, and other shells, and the belemnites, all incrusted with pyritical matter. These substances were interspersed in large masses through the earth, which consisted of a dark-coloured loam, impregnated with bitumen to the depth of forty feet. There was also found a dark-coloured substance, like coal cinder, which being powdered and washed, and the water slowly evaporated to a pellicle, its salts, which shot into crystals, appeared to be a martial vitrol."

The shore is bold and rugged quite to Lyme, the projecting parts being daily diminished by the force of the waves, and indeed the numerous springs that gush out of them hasten their downfal.

About a mile and a half south-west of Charmouth, on the right of our road, is *Lyme*, or *Lyme-Regis*, a sea-port and a borough, situated on the little river Lyme, whence it derives its name, close to the sea, on the west bay, on the extremity of the eastern border of Devonshire.

The harbour has been artificially constructed, so long since that the precise time is not recorded. The materials were vast rocks, weighed up out of the sea, with empty casks, placed in a regular order to a considerable breadth, and carried out a great way, some say three hundred yards. The interstices being filled up with earth, high and thick walls of stone were built upon those rocks, so thick, that large buildings (among them a handsome custom house upon pillars, with a corn-market under it, and warehouses) have been since erected thereon. Opposite to this, but farther into the sea, is another wall of the same workmanship, crossing the end of the first, and then turning until it becomes parallel to it. The point

of the first or main wall is the entrance into the port; and the second or opposite wall breaking the violence of the sea from the entrance, the ships go into the bason, and being defended from all winds, ride there as secure as in a mill pond or wet dock. This singular work, called the *Cobb* or pier, was begun in the reign of Edward III. It was totally destroyed in the time of Richard II., and in the years 1742 and 1748, was greatly injured by the violence of the storms, at the latter period it was repaired at a great expence, it was again damaged and repaired in 1762, as it is the only shelter for vessels between Start Point and Portland, it is of very great importance as a naval station. It is six hundred and eighty feet long from the land to the end: at the foundation the breadth is twelve feet, and the height from the foundation to the walk sixteen feet. The Cobb at Lyme is situated in the *Cod* as they term it, of a bay, where there was no river nor land lock provided by nature, and of all places upon the coast of England least to be suspected for a good port. It is about two furlongs from the town, and named from the *Cobble-Stone* of which it is composed: an immense mass of stone of the shape of a demi-line, with a bar in the middle of the concave, is its outline. The stones are not wrought with any tool, nor bedded in any cement, but being all pebbles of the sea, are piled up, and hold by their bearings only, and the surge plays in and through the interstices of the stone, as the best cemented square stone will scarcely hold against the surge, it often decays; but there is warning enough to repair and prevent any great ruin of it: for sometimes a swamp appears upon the flat top on which they walk, when that occurs, they take down all that part, and build it up from the bottom, and nothing less will prevent the downfal of much more, as the sea rages more or less against it. If some new foundation stones are to be laid, these are the largest that can be got upon the coast, and mounting them on casks joined together, with but one man

mounted upon them, who with the help of a pole, conducts it to the place where it is to lie, and then striking out an iron pin, go away to the casks, and the stone falls into its place. The vessels are laden and unladen, by horses going upon the sand between the Cobb and the town; they have no drivers, but are charged with bales at the warehouse, and trot away to the ship's side and stand fair, sometimes above the belly in water, for the tackle to discharge them, and then they return to the warehouse for more; and so they perform the tide's work, and know by the flood when their labour is at an end.

The expence of keeping the Cobb in repair, is by an assessment raised by two Officers annually chosen, called the *Cobb Wardens*; this assessment is added to the profits of the harbour. Lyme, notwithstanding the streets are steep, rugged, and unpleasant, and so intricate, that a stranger as has been remarked, "will find himself bewildered as if he were entangled in a forest," is not an unpleasant place for company in the bathing season. Here is a small Assembly-room, Card-room, and Billiard-table, conveniently arranged under one roof, so that had the library been joined to it, all the amusement of the place would have been under one roof. However, the situation for this edifice has been happily chosen, as it commands a charming marin view as far as the Isle of Portland, at a distance of eight leagues. The objects proposed in visiting a sea-bathing place, may, in this retired spot, be secured in a manner more compatible with the rigid rules of economy, than at places of more public and splendid resort, lodgings and board are not here merely reasonable, they are positively cheap. The Golden Lion, and Three Cups, are respectable Inns. The principal walk at Lyme Regis has been much improved, being now completely secured from the spray of the sea, by the erection of a new break-water.

According to Doomsday Book, Lyme at that time belonged one part to the *Bishop of Salisbury*, another

o Glastonbury Abbey, and a third part to Wm. Belet, comprising in all 14 *Saltmen's habitations.*

The liberties of a haven and borough were granted by Edward I. and from this period it became so prosperous, that in the reign of Edward III. it furnished four ships, and 62 mariners, for the siege of Calais. It afterwards experienced so many calamities, that the trade declined considerably, and with it the prosperity of the town. It was not until the latter end of the 17th century that this place began to revive. Its improvement might be considerably promoted by proper encouragement given to their ancient manufacture of salt.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. the siege of Lyme, was one of the most remarkable, for the obstinacy of its defence, that occurred.

Near Lyme is Burton, from whence Charles II. tried to escape after the battle of Worcester: he was nearly discovered by a blacksmith of Lyme, who, upon being sent for to shoe his horse, remarked that the horse had been shod in a distant country: this gave the alarm, and the king and his party returned to his retreat near Yeovil.

The corporation at present consists of a mayor, recorder, town-clerk, and fifteen capital burgesses. Representatives to parliament have been sent from Lyme ever since the 23d of Edward I. the right of election is in the freemen of the borough, admitted by a majority of the mayor, and capital burgesses; the number of voters is about 30.

Among the many eminent men who were either natives, or who distinguished themselves at Lyme, we cannot omit to mention the name of THOMAS CORAM, the beneficent patron and contriver of the Foundling Hospital, born at Lyme, in 1668. The history of this excellent man is too well known to require a place in our work; the complete success of his plan to its full extent will we trust form a monument to his memory as lasting as time.

Returning to our road, about seven miles and a

half from Charmouth, is *Bridport*, a town of great antiquity, mentioned as far back as the reign of Edward the Confessor, when, according to Doomsday book, it had 120 houses. It is situated in a vale upon the river Brit, from whence it derives its name, just above its conflux with two small rivers. In the reign of Henry III. it was a royal demesne, and leased by that prince to the inhabitants for a small quit rent, which is still paid into the Exchequer at Michaelmas. The same king created it a borough, but it was not incorporated until the reign of Henry VIII. The charter granted by James I. invested the government of the town in two bailiffs, and 13 of the principal inhabitants, called burgesses, who have power to purchase lands, levy fines, keep a common seal, and chuse their proper officers. Another charter from Charles II. is now in force, nearly to the same effect as that just mentioned.

The town consists of three spacious streets, which from their form resemble the letter T. The Market-House is a very handsome building, in the centre of the town; it has been lately erected at a considerable expence, on the ruins of an old chapel dedicated to Saint Andrew. There is a very convenient Town-Hall, in which the corporation business is transacted, and the members of parliament are chosen; all the inhabitants pay scot and lot, being the electors, to the number of 160.

There were formerly two churches in this town, but one of them is in ruins; the other, dedicated to St. Mary, is an ancient gothic structure, with a large square tower, adorned with pinnacles. There are likewise two meeting-houses for dissenters, and one for the people called quakers.

Formerly a Priory stood near the bridge, at the east end of the town, now a dwelling-house, called St. John's: at the west end was an hospital, and in various parts there were several religious foundations, of which no remains now appear. At the junction of the three streets, near the centre of the town, are the remains of St. Andrew's Chapel, part

of which has been converted into a dwelling-house, part the sessions house, over which is the free-school; another part is made a gaol for criminals, and part is in ruins.

In the year 1722, an act passed for restoring the haven and piers of Bridport. It was at one time a place of great trade and commerce; but, by reason of a general sickness, which reduced the greater part of its wealthiest inhabitants, and by other accidents, the haven was neglected, and became choaked with sand, the piers fell to ruin, and the town of course to decay; so that there was no security for ships, driven by stress of weather into the deep and dangerous bay, wherein the haven formerly was, which occasioned frequent shipwrecks. The act therefore authorizes the bailiffs and burgesses of Bridport to levy certain tolls on divers merchandizes, &c. in order to restore the said piers and harbours.

The principal manufactures here are sieves and nets of all kinds, lines, twines, small cordage, and sail cloth, which are exported in considerable quantities to Newfoundland, and other parts of America, and the West Indies: The British fisheries likewise take off a good deal. It is computed that upwards of fifteen hundred tons of hemp and flax are worked up annually, and that nearly ten thousand people are employed in the town and its environs; sail cloth is principally made about Beaminster.

Between Bridport and Abbotsbury, on the right of our road, "At *Chilcomb*, on the top of a hill, is a large fortification, 1330 feet by 672, the area of which is several acres. It has a single low rampart, and a shallow ditch; in the middle two or three small barrows. The entrances are on the north and south. The form is square on the north, oval on the south, and irregular on the east and west. The hill is very steep, but accessible on the north and south; it commands a very extensive prospect, and is one of the most extensive camps in this part of the country." It is supposed to have been the work of the Saxons.

About six miles from Bridport there is a road running southward, towards Weymouth, which we shall pursue in order to describe *Abbotsbury*, eight miles from the former place, a small town, pleasantly situated in a rich and fertile soil, which produces great quantities of hemp and flax. The town consists of three streets, in form of the letter Y. The name is derived from an ancient abbey founded by Orcusar Arkus, steward to Canute the Great, for secular canons; but in the reign of Edward the Confessor they were removed, and Benedictines placed in their stead; these remained in the possession of it till the reign of Henry VIII. when it was dissolved with other religious houses; at which time its revenues amounted to 484l. per annum.

This abbey was a place of great repute in times of popery, having received many donations from devotees, which enabled the monks to rebuild the whole edifice, together with a fine church, and a chapel on the summit of an adjoining hill, from whence there was a fine prospect.

The conventual church, stood a little north of the abbey, parallel to that and the present parish church. There still remains an ancient low gate (probably one of the porches,) on the north, opposite to the remains of the abbey-house; and a little to the west of the said gate is a large heap of ruins, where perhaps the tower stood. It was here, according to the ancient register of the monastery, the nobility and gentry of these parts were buried.

The abbey stood parallel to the ancient conventual and the present parish church, on a rising ground. South of the town is a large gate-house, leading from the town to it, on the side of which is a portal, where the last abbot is said to have been confined and starved to death: near this gate, on the left, is another large gate, by which you enter the precincts of the monastery; near the farm-house, is a stable, supposed to have been the dormitory. Somewhat south of the precincts of the abbey is

a very ancient barn, which, when entire, must have been the largest in the county.

The remains of St. Catharine's chapel, belonging to the abbey, are to be seen on a high round hill, half a mile S. W. of the town; it has two porches, a turret at the west end, and windows all round. It is a strong handsome building, with a stone roof, arched in the inside, and is esteemed a great curiosity, and one of the most venerable pieces of antiquity this kingdom has to boast. By the style of building it seems to have been erected in the reign of Edward IV. Its high situation renders it an excellent land-mark for seamen.

The present church is a large and handsome structure dedicated to St. Nicholas, and supposed to have been built a short time before the Reformation; it is situated on the south side of the town.

About a quarter of a mile S. W. of Abbotsbury, is a large decoy, well covered with wood, where plenty of wild fowl resort, and are taken. A little west of the town is the *Swannery*, much visited by strangers; in the open part of the fleet, are kept 6 or 700 swans. The royalty belonged anciently to the abbot of the monastery; since to the family of the Strangeways; now to the Countess Dowager of Ilchester, who has a small house upon the margin of the beach, where she usually resides some time in the summer months.

The principal part of the inhabitants of Abbotsbury are employed in fishing and agriculture; a few in spinning of cotton, which is manufactured into stockings, which have long acquired great reputation. There is a free-school for teaching 20 poor boys reading, writing, and arithmetic; at first endowed with 12l. per annum, since augmented to 20l. by the late Mrs. Horner.

The town lies near the sea, where vast quantities of fine mackarel are caught, from the middle of March till Midsummer; they have sometimes caught 30 or 40,000 at a draught, and 100 have been sold

for a penny. There are many curious stones on the beach, and stone is dug in the quarries near the shore, very serviceable for slating or paving.

The vicinity of this town to Weymouth, being a pleasant ride, occasions, in the bathing season, frequent excursions of company from that place, on account of its antiquities, and the romantic prospects of the surrounding country.

Abbotsbury has a weekly market on Thursday; and is distant from London 128 miles.

"At the end of a ridge of hills, about a mile and half west of the town, and a little north of East Bexington, is an old fortification, called *Abbotsbury Castle*. Its form is nearly square; but the south side is longer than the north, and the angles rounded off. On the north is only one rampart: half way down is a shallow ditch; and at bottom another not very deep. On the south, towards the sea, the hill is very steep: half way down is a small ditch, and at bottom an irregular one, not always continued. The rampart on this and the north side, does not rise above the area. On the east are two very high and very thick ramparts, and two deep ditches, which separate it from the rest of the hill. On the west side are two ramparts and ditches; the innermost rampart high, and rising above the area, but not so much as on the east. The outer rampart and ditch are not so high or deep as the other, and extend only to the north, and half of the west side. Where it is discontinued, is an entrance in the middle of that rampart. There is another entrance near the north-east angle. The area is about twenty acres. Near the south side is a low tumulus. The hill on which this castle is raised, continues to the east about half a mile. At the foot is a ditch, in some places pretty considerable. The north side 144 paces; the south, 250; the east, 115; the west, 217. In the south-west and north angles, is a circular ditch and rampart, inclosing a small area, twelve paces diameter."

Returning to the line of our original route, we cross the road in order to visit *Eggerdon Camp*, about two miles to the left, situated on the brow of Eggerdon hill. The area of this ancient fortification appears to have been upwards of forty-seven acres, comprised in an oval, of which the largest inner diameter is 1380 feet; the smaller 720 feet. It has only two ditches and two ramparts on the north and east sides, each about thirty feet wide. On the west side there are three ramparts and two very regular ditches. The ramparts on the south side are irregular and at present hardly observable. There is no doubt of this camp having been the work of the Romans; their ways in the neighbourhood and other concurrent circumstances, proving the fact.

Near *Winterborne Abbas*, four miles before we reach Dorchester, there is a small circle, formed by nine erect stones, and round about upon the Downs several other erect stones, and a great number of barrows of various descriptions. Dr. Stukeley observes "the adjacent Downs are much fuller of Celtic barrows than Salisbury plain, and hereabouts is an endless fund of Celtic and Roman inquiries."

Dorchester

Is supposed to have received its name from the Saxons, by whom it was called *Dorncaster*, from the British *Dur* or *Dwyr*, which signifies water, and the Saxon *Chester*, a corruption from the Roman *Castrum*, a camp or town; from which it is very evident the Latin name *Dorcestria*, in ancient records, and the modern name *Dorchester*, is derived. In the Itineraries of Antoninus and Richard of Cirencester, Dorchester appears as a Roman station: and indeed the ancient walls, the *Via Iceniana*, on which it stands, the several vicinal roads that issue hence, coins and other pieces of antiquity found here, prove it to have been a place of consideration with the Romans in this county.

In the Saxon age it made a considerable figure. King Athelstan ordained here two mints; a privi-

lege that prince granted only to cities and walled towns. In the time of Edward the Confessor there were 172 houses in Dorsetshire. Since the Saxon period few remarkable circumstances have occurred in the history of the town.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth several Popish Priests were executed here, and in 1685 it was the theatre of the cruelties of the infamous Judge Jefferies. In the year 1595 the town was afflicted by a dreadful plague, which was so destructive that there were scarcely sufficient of the living left to bury the dead. In 1613 a terrible fire consumed nearly the whole of the place, with the two churches of the Holy Trinity and All Saints. The damage was estimated at 200,000l.

Dorchester is very pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Frome, from which there is a fine prospect over the Downs and the adjacent country.

It is a regular town, consisting principally of three large streets, which are well paved and kept clean, and having the river on the north side. The houses are built of brick and stone, and have a handsome appearance. It is surrounded on the south and west by pleasant walks, planted with rows of limes and sycamore trees, as are the avenues to the town on the south-west and east.

The public buildings most worthy of notice are, the three Churches of St. Peter, Trinity, and All-Saints; the Town Hall, the County Hall, and the New Gaol.

St. Peter's Church is a large venerable gothic pile in the centre of the town, consisting of a chancel, nave, and side aisles, with a tower ninety feet high, ornamented with turrets and battlements. This is the principal church in the town, and it contains some monuments and inscriptions curious on account of their antiquity. The effigies of two warriors are particularly entitled to notice: the first, in the north aisle, lying on a stone coffin, cross-legged, and completely armed in a coat of mail, and helmet which covers the greatest part of the face, resembling those

which Speed, in his Chronicle, represents on the seals of Henry II. and Richard I; he has a belt, spurs, sword, and shield, on which last are no arms. This figure has evident marks of great antiquity, and was intended to represent one of the early Crusaders. The other figure is exactly similar, and under the south window. One of these figures is said by tradition to be founder of the church, and vulgarly called *Geoffery Vann*, or rather *Ann;* for about 1680 was dug up in a garden in this town a seal, on which was a crescent surmounted with a stave, and round it Sigillum *Galfride de Ann.*

The Churches of the Holy Trinity and All Saints, are of no great antiquity or beauty.

The Town-hall is near St. Peter's Church. This is a handsome building, erected by the corporation in 1791; the Market Place is underneath, with two rows of shops for butchers.

The County or Shire Hall, where the assizes are held, and business of the county transacted, is fronted with Portland stone, which gives it a very neat appearance

On the north side of the town is the New Gaol; built on the plan suggested by the late Mr. Howard, at an expence of 16,179*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* In its external appearance it is handsome and characteristic; and the interior possesses every convenience appropriate to its destination.

The buildings consist of a lodge, keeper's house, chapel, debtors' day-rooms, female fines, and female debtors' rooms; visiting rooms for male debtors; fines; felons, infirmaries, &c. There are also four wings which, though they are detached, communicate with the centre building in each story, by cast-iron bridges sprung from the several galleries. The separate sleeping cells which will accommodate eighty-eight prisoners, are distributed in the different buildings; a provision is also made for accommodating more male debtors in case they exceed that

number. The condemned prisoners are lodged in four cells, which are light and airy; and such as are refractory, are confined to four that are perfectly dark. There are likewise six reception-cells which are fitted up in the lodge. The arrangement of the prison, and the consequent distribution of the prisoners are such, that not only are the male sex separated from the female, but the prisoners of each sex are divided into classes, and for each class, separate sub-divisions are appropriated my means of distinct stair-cases, with courts, work-rooms, &c. to each. A commodious room fitted up with proper attention to convenience, is also set apart for the female fines, and female debtors respectively; these rooms are placed over the dormitories of the male debtors: and under the two infirmaries detached from every other part of the building, except the court and house of the keeper, to which they have access through the chapel.

As soon as any prisoners are brought in, they are placed in the reception-cells, where they continue till the surgeon examines into their state of health, and until they are thoroughly cleaned in a cold or hot baths, built for that purpose. Such as are in an infectious condition, are detained here until the surgeon pronounces them fit to be removed into the interior parts of the prison. They are then clothed in the gaol uniform, and distributed according to their sex and class. The clothes they brought with them are put carefully by, in order to be given them on their liberation.

The task-master and one of the turnkeys, have apartments in the lodge, which contains a wardrobe and a room with a mill for grinding corn, in which every thing is to be found necessary for dressing the flour, as all the corn for the supply of the prison is ground and prepared here. There is also a bake-house and a brewhouse with iron boilers; an oven and other apparatus for cookery for the use of the prisoners. On the top of the lodge there is a flat

roof covered with copper, on which the executions take place in view of all the criminal prisoners.

There are two Free-Schools in Dorchester, one founded and endowed by Mr. Thomas Hardy, of Melcombe-Regis, in 1569; the other by the corporation in 1623.

The number of houses in this town, as returned under the late act, appears to be 3020; and of the inhabitants 15,980.

The corporation, under a charter granted by Charles I. consists of a mayor, two bailiffs, six aldermen, six capital burgesses, a governor, and twenty-four common councilmen. The government of the town, in the reign of Edward III. was vested in bailiffs and burgesses. The number of officers were increased by James I.

The manor of Dorsetshire anciently belonged to the crown; it is at present vested in the corporation who pay a quit rent of 20l. now enjoyed by the Earl of Hardwicke.

The borough has sent representatives to parliament ever since the reign of Edward I. The number of voters, who are all persons having real estates in the town, amount to about 200.

Dorchester was once distinguished for its manufactory of broad cloth and serge; the manufactory of broad cloth is wholly at an end, and the serge trade has become of very small consequence. At present the chief business of the place consists in the breeding of sheep, of which not less than 600,000, it is said, were formerly computed to feed within a distance of six miles, which number has of late very much increased.

In the town and neighbourhood of Dorchester, as we have before observed, are many remains of Roman antiquities. Part of the ancient Roman wall which inclosed the town is yet to be seen on the western side. On the east, a small lane is built upon it, and the ditch filled up, though it is still called the *Walls*. Great part of the remains were levelled or

destroyed in making the walls round the town about the year 1764; eighty-five feet of the wall was pulled down, and only seventy-seven left standing. The method of making them appears to have been by building two parallel walls, and filling up the interval between them with hot cement, or mortar, and with flint stones promiscuously used. The Roman walls inclosed an area of about eighty acres.

In the back garden of the principal Free-school was found a very beautiful and perfect bronze image of a Roman Mercury, seated on a fragment of a rock, about four inches and a half high; and at the same time a considerable fragment of a tesselated pavement.

As we intend to make an excursion from Dorchester to visit Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, we shall, at our first setting out, have to notice some other remarkable Roman antiquities; but we must first observe that at *Bradford Peverell*, a new public bridge and causeway has been erected over the river Frome at this place, adjoining the estate of George Purling, Esq., at that gentleman's sole expence, under the direction of J. D. Harvey, of Weymouth.

Poundbury and *Maiden Castle* are both extraordinary remains of Roman stations. Numberless tumuli also are thrown up all over the Downs; these were antiquities in the times even of the Romans themselves. But the most valuable fragment on these plains is a *Roman Amphitheatre*, which retains its complete form to this day.

This amphitheatre, vulgarly called Maumbury, is situated on a plain in the open fields, about a quarter of a mile south-west from the walls of Dorchester, close by the Roman road, which runs thence to Weymouth. It is raised on the solid chalk upon a level; the jambs at the entrance are somewhat worn away. Half the work is above five feet and a half under the surface of the ground; the greater part of the chalk was dug out of the cavity within,

and the rest fetched from elsewhere: probably it was framed of solid chalk, cemented by mortar made of burnt chalk, and covered with turf.

This is artfully set on the top of a plain, declining to the north-east, whereby the rays of the sun falling upon the ground hereabouts, is thrown off to a distance by reflection; and the upper end of the amphitheatre, for the major part of the day, has the sun behind the spectators. The whole is delineated from four centres. In the ground it is a true circle (oval); but upon the plain became a walk of eigh feet broad, gradually ascending from the ends upon the longest diameter to its highest elevation, in the middle upon the shortest diameter, where it reaches up the whole series of seats of the spectators, who, marching hence, distributing themselves therein, from all sides, without hurry or tumult. On the top is a terrace of twelve feet, besides the parapet, outwardly five feet broad, and four high. There are three ways leading up to the terrace; one at the upper end, over the cavea, and one at each side upon the shortest diameter, going from the elevated part of the circular work. Several horses abreast may go upon this, ascending by the ruins of the cavea. The receptacle of the gladiators, wild beasts, &c. is supposed to have been at the upper end, under the ascent to the terrace, there being vaults under that part of the body of the work. The area is no doubt exceedingly elevated by manuring and ploughing for many years, yet it still preserves a concavity, for the descent from the entrance is very great, and you may go down as into a shallow pit. The middle part of it is now ten or twelve feet lower than the level part of the field; and that, especially about the entrance, is much lowered by ploughing; because the end of the circular walk there, which should be even with the ground, is a good deal above it, and has filled up the adjoining part of the area with its ruins. On the outside of the upper end is a large round tumour,

a considerable way beyond the exterior verge, and regular in figure, which certainly has been somewhat appertaining to the work. On the shortest diameter, but towards the upper end, are two rising square plots, four feet above the level of the walk, or terrace, capable of holding twenty-four people each. There is a seeming irregularity of the terrace on both sides at the lower end, for it is higher within that without; yet this produces no ill effect; for when you stand in the centre within, the whole surface of the terrace seems of one level; but on the outside, the verge of the north-eastwardly part is sloped off gradually towards the entrance, where the declivity is conformable with it; hence the exterior contour also appears of an equal height. The circular walks cut the whole breadth into two equal parts, upon the shortest diameter, probably making an equal number of seats above and under it.—Dr. Stukeley observes, "That this amphitheatre is computed to consist of about an acre of ground; and by an accurate admeasurement taken for Mr. Hutchins' History of Dorset, it was found that the greatest perpendicular height of the rampart above the level of the arena, was 30 feet; the external longest diameter 343 feet 6 inches; the external shortest diameter 339 feet 6 inches; the internal longest diameter 218 feet; the internal shortest diameter 163 feet 6 inches: and the first ascent from the arena to the greatest curve height is 30 feet. The breadth of the side of the work, or solid, taken upon the ground-plot, is equal to one half of the longest diameter of the area, or a fourth of the whole longest diameter. Its perpendicular altitude, from the top of the terrace to the bottom of the area, is a fourth of the longest diameter of the area. In the middle of each side is a *cuneus*, or parcel of seats, nearly 30 feet broad, just over the more elevated part of the circular work, reaching up to the terrace, which swells out above the concavity of the whole, and answers to the rising ground in the middle of the terrace.

Some years ago a silver coin was ploughed up here, which fell into the hands of Mr. Pownall of Lincoln; on the face was this inscription, IMP. M. IVI. PHILLIPVS. AVG. on the reverse, LÆTAT. FVNDAT. and a Genius, or Fortune, with a garland in her right-hand, and the helm of a ship in the left. This emperor reigned in the year 240; but the amphitheatre was probably made under the government of Agricola."

The spectators that could be accommodated in the amphitheatre were estimated, by Dr. Stukeley, to be about 12,060 in number; and when Mary Channing was burnt here, in the year 1705, for poisoning her husband, there was supposed to have been present at the execution upwards of 10,000 persons.

Maiden Castle, one of the largest and most complete Roman camps in England, is about a mile S. W. of Dorchester, on the right of our road to Weymouth. It occupies the whole of the summit of a sleep hill, comprising an area of nearly fifty acres. The form of this encampment is oval, surrounded by treble ditches and ramparts, the former of great depth, and the latter consequently very high. Near the south entrance is the mouth of a cavern, or subterraneous passage, now choaked up. Its use has not been ascertained.

The Roman *Via Iceniana* runs within a mile of Maiden Castle.

Poundbury Castle, is situated about half a mile west of Dorchester, close to the River Frome; it is of considerably smaller dimensions than Maiden Castle, and is ascribed by Camden, Speed, and some other antiquaries, to the Danes, who besieged Dorchester under King Sweyn.

The road to Weymouth is hilly, but very good, and the prospects, from the higher parts of it, of the Isle of Portland, the Bay of Weymouth and Town, very beautiful.

Weymouth, seven miles and a half from Dorches-

ter, is seated on the British Channel at the bottom of a beautiful Bay, that forms nearly a semicircle, making a sweep of more than two miles, admirably protected from all the winds by the surrounding hills. The shore is covered with a fine sand, and is so flat that people may walk nearly three hundred feet into the sea without being more than knee deep. On it may be frequently found a great variety of very rare and curious shells. The town stands on the south side of the river *Wey*, which separates it from the town of Melcombe Regis; this and its neighbour, as one borough, return four members to parliament; a privilege allowed to no other place excepting London. Weymouth formerly carried on a considerable trade, and was the principal port in the county. The present bridge was erected in 1770, about 70 yards higher up the river than the old one. With respect to trade, this place is now rivalled by Poole, and depends more on the company resorting to it, than on any commercial pursuits. Till within the last thirty years, it was comparatively small and meanly built, but by rapid enlargements and many elegant erections, it has now become a very respectable place, sometimes with a population of 4000 souls. The most fashionable residences are, Gloucester Row, Chesterfield Place, York Buildings, Charlotte Row, Augusta Place, Johnstone's Row, Pulteney Buildings, St. Albans Row, Clarence Buildings, and Belle Vue. These being in the vicinity of the rooms, the libraries, and the theatre, and commanding extensive views by sea and land, are preferred as much as possible, both by strangers and natives.

The celebrated Ralph Allen, Esq. of Bath, recommended Weymouth as a bathing place about the year 1760, and the first machine seen on the beach, was contructed for his use.

The first visit paid to Weymouth by their majesties was in the year 1789; since which they have

frequently honoured it with an annual residence of some weeks during the season, and it of course became one of the most fashionable sea-bathing places. The late much-lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales also resided here during a whole summer; and the late Duke of Gloucester, having passed the winter of 1780 at Weymouth, found his health so much improved, that he erected Gloucester Lodge in the front of the bay, which was afterwards purchased by his Majesty, and has since been much enlarged and improved.

The market days here are Tuesdays and Fridays, when plenty of butchers' meat, poultry, and fish, may be purchased on reasonable terms. The small Portland mutton is met with here in perfection, and the most delicate kinds of fish may be had any day.

The building containing the Assembly rooms, with an Hotel 600 feet in length, and 250 feet in depth, was raised at the expence of 6000l. which was defrayed by subscriptions, in shares of 100l. each. Many additional houses have since been erected, and so great have been the subsequent improvements, that none but the inhabitants of the town can form an adequate idea of the changes it has undergone. The two ranges of houses called Gloucester Row and York Buildings, are very considerable additions to its appearance. Every spot of land fronting the sands has been snatched up with the greatest avidity, and appropriated to the purpose of building lodging-houses, which in the summer season are sure to answer every expectation of the proprietors. The Esplanade, which is kept in the most perfect repair, is a beautiful raised terrace of considerable length and breadth, with a slope gradually descending to the sands; and near the centre of the bathing machines, and opposite the royal residence, are flights of steps of Portland stone. Here is likewise a handsome battery, mounting twenty-one small guns, which are generally fired on extraordinary occasions. The Royal Assembly Room is a lofty, light, and spacious building, every way adapted for

the purpose for which it was intended, and in which a hundred couples may dance with ease and pleasure.

On the quay is a most convenient hot salt-water bath which has effected many cures.

The bridge has been rebuilt in the Chinese style. The views from Weymouth are exceedingly pleasant, the buildings being so situated as to command interesting prospects. The houses fronting the bay, however, possess superior attractions, not only from their delightful situation, but also from their immediate vicinity to the places of recreation, the Theatre, Public Rooms, and Libraries. The principal Library is fitted up in a very elegant style, nearly in the centre of the Esplanade; over it is a card-room forty-five feet in length, twenty-three feet wide, and sixteen feet high.

Several small forts have at different periods been erected to defend the town and harbour from foreign enemies, and others were also raised during the civil wars. Upon the jetty, or *New Fort*, *North Fort*, and *Dock Fort*, are nine pieces of cannon.

The old church was a low building, dedicated to St. Mary, occupying the site of an ancient chapel belonging to the church at Radipole, of which parish this was originally a part, but in the reign of James I. was made a separate jurisdiction. Within it is a fine altar-piece representing the last supper, for which Sir James Thornhill, who presented it to the town, is said to have refused 7000l. A new church has been erected here capable of holding 2000 persons. East of the old church are some buildings connected with a Dominican Priory, founded here about the commencement of the fifteenth century. These are now parcelled out in tenements, and the chapel belonging to the Priory is used as a malt-house. The Quakers and Independents have each a meeting-house here. The number of houses in both divisions of the town, as returned under the late act, was 862, and that of the inhabitants 1747.

Sir James Thornhill, the celebrated painter of the cupola of St. Paul's, and of the halls of Green

wich Hospital and Blenheim, was born at Melcombe Regis, in Dorsetshire, in the year 1675. He practised originally as a house painter: but afterwards applied to historical subjects, and with so much success, that he rivalled the best proficients of his time. In March 1719-20, he was appointed historical painter to George I., and a few months afterwards received the honour of knighthood. Though employed in several extensive works, the advantage he derived from them was not always commensurate either to his merits or his genius. Thus for the dome of St Paul's, Sir James was paid 40s. for the *square yard*, and for the Hall at Blenheim 25s. A stronger satire upon the barbarous taste of his times, can scarcely be penned.

BATHING MACHINES AND BATHS.

The place were the company bathe is the bay, where immersion in the briny flood is at all times safe, the waves being remarkably tranquil. The bathing-machines, forty in number, are constantly in requisition from morning till night. They are drawn into the sea by a horse to the necessary depth, and are attended by proper guides. A commodious hot salt-water bath is erected in a central part of the town, and deserves encouragement. The price of a single bath is 3s. 6d, if before six in the evening, and 4s. if after. Sedan-chairs are kept in constant attendance.

THEATRE, PUBLIC ROOMS, &c.

The business of the Weymouth stage is well conducted by Mr. Hughes. The house is elegantly fitted up, and the performers are frequently of the first order. The best Comedians from the London and Bath theatres usually exert their talents here. The boxes are sufficiently large to accommodate 400 persons. The public rooms and Hotel stand in the centre of Gloucester Row. The Assembly Room is lofty, light, and spacious, and very handsomely decorated, as well as delightfully situated. Hervey's Library is near the centre of the Esplanade, and contains a good collection of books, with a commodious room for newspapers. The card-room over the

library is large and elegantly furnished. Terms, 10s. 6d. per quarter. At Wood's library on the Esplanade, besides a large stock of books, musical instruments may be hired at 2s. 6d. per week.

LODGING AND BOARDING HOUSES.

These are numerous and commodious on both sides of the harbour and in the interior of the town; but are seldom taken till the apartments fronting the sands are all engaged; the price is generally high. Half price, however, is taken from October to the 15th of June, and single gentlemen may always find accommodations. At the Boarding-houses both ladies and gentlemen will find every thing they can wish for at reasonable terms; especially at Scriven's on the Esplanade, and Clark's in St. Mary Street. The general terms are three guineas per week. With respect to Inns, the Hotel in Gloucester Row, the Hotel and Navy Tavern, the King's Head Inn, and the Crown Inn, are all good houses.

POST-OFFICE AND PACKETS.

The Post Office is at Hervey's Library; the post sets out daily from London at half past ten o'clock in the morning, except Saturdays, and arrives every day at Weymouth by three in the afternoon, except Mondays. There are also bye-posts to the West of England. Three packets are stationed here for the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, one of which sails every Wednesday and Saturday, and returns immediately. To London, Bath, and Bristol, there are several coaches daily. In time of peace several excellent yachts are employed in trips to the Continent and the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney.

The new Church at Weymouth was opened on the 23d of March, 1818, with due solemnity.

PUBLIC WALKS, &c.

As the Steyne is the fashionable promenade at Brighton, so the Esplanade is that at Weymouth. It is above half a mile long and thirty feet broad, from whence the company may descend to the sands, and walk with as much comfort as on a carpet, with

the invigorating sea breezes playing round them. Between the entrance of St. Thomas and St. Mary Street, a statue of his Majesty in his robes has been erected on a stone pedestal, to commemorate the anniversary of the fiftieth year of his reign, and as a small tribute of respect from the inhabitants to their Royal visitor. From the centre of the bridge which connects Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, the views up and down the river are pleasing, and from thence along the quay to the end of the New Pier, the walk is replete with variety.

At the extremity of this pier, various pleasure vessels are stationed, which may be hired for aquatic excursions. From this spot their majesties have always embarked when going on board any of the ships of war that cruised about during their stay in this town. Another agreeable walk is to the Look Out on the Weymouth side of the water, commanding a beautiful view of the West bay, the Isle of Portland, &c. A little to the left of this is the Camera Obscura; and in the vicinity, a battery of heavy cannon and barracks for infantry.

A small distance from the Look Out, is Weymouth, or Sandsfoot Castle, from which to the Ferry-House, when the tide is out, the walk over the sands is equally salubrious and pleasant. To the lovers of picturesque scenery, a walk to the villages of Wyke, Chickerhill, and Bincombe, will afford high gratification; the land and sea views are both delightful. The roads towards Dorchester and Wareham, have also their appropriate beauties. The little village of Radipole, where stands the ancient mother church of Melcombe Regis, is rural and inviting. But after all, the country appears naked from a deficiency of trees, and in summer time, the traveller, panting under the meridian sun, sighs in vain for shade. The lowering and improvement of Ridgeway Hill, between this place and Dorchester, will be found a great advantage to travellers.

At the distance of twelve furlongs from the turnpike, on the left of the Dorchester road, lies the small hamlet of Nottington, famous for its medicinal spring, extremely serviceable in cutaneous and scorbutic disorders. It has a strong sulphureous smell, though perfectly limpid, and acts chiefly on the urinary passages. It appears from analysis to contain hepatic, phlogistigated and fixed air, the digestive salt of Silvius, vegetable alkali, magnesia, &c., and strongly resembles the Moffatt water in Scotland. Combined with sea-bathing, under the direction of a judicious physician, it may be extremely efficacious in many cases of human infirmity.

The island of Portland lies three miles south of Weymouth. The nearest way to Portland is to be ferried over an inlet of the sea, at the end of Smallmouth sands, for which the following rates are paid:—foot passengers, each, 1d., with a horse 2d., single chaise, 1s. 6d., post chaise, 2s. 6d., coach, 3s. 6d. On the Portland side of the ferry, the beach, or ridge of pebbles, is worthy the attention of every visitor, who will be surprised to find a loose pebbly shore, extending from Portland to Abbotsbury, a space of more than nine miles, capable of resisting the most furious tempests. The pebbles nearest to Portland are about the size of an egg; but they gradually diminish till they are lost in fine gravel. Many of them are beautifully veined, and others quite transparent, and capable of being converted into seals and other trinkets.

That inlet of the sea which runs by the Passage-house for the space of five miles, is called the Fleet. On its borders is a seat belonging to Mr. Gould, of Upway. Approaching Portland the castle appears on the left, which, with that on the opposite shore of Weymouth, was built in the reign of Henry VIII. when he made a general fortification of the coasts. Visitors generally commence the tour of Portland at the top of the

hill, where, in a little hut, one of the quarrymen exposes for sale, specimens of the various productions of the island, consisting of spar, fossils, ores, shells, &c. On both sides this summit, may be seen some of the immense quarries from which that beautiful and durable stone is taken, that has been used in building some of the most magnificent edifices in this country.

The new Light-House built by the late Mr. Johns, of Weymouth, is a well-adapted conical edifice, sixty-three feet high, containing, in its inside, a geometrical staircase, by which there is an easy ascent to the top, where a curious apparatus is fixed for the lights which direct the navigation through the dangerous passage called Portland Race. From hence, on a clear day, may be seen Torbay on the right, and the Isle of Wight on the left, at the distance of twenty-five leagues. Near this edifice is the Signal-house, and not far off is Caves Hole, a large cavern perforated by the sea a great way into the rocks, having an aperture on the land through which the foaming element may be heard and seen in all its terrors. On the southern part of Portland may be seen the remains of Bow and Arrow castle, and near this are the ruins of the old church, which, though now close to the cliff, were formerly said to have stood in the centre of the island. In this vicinity is a range of rocks which appear to have been torn from the rest by some convulsive effort of nature, forming a chasm beautifully grand. A handsome house near these ruins has been erected by William Penn, esq. commanding a beautiful sea view. In Portland are two good houses of entertainment; the first of them is at the entrance of Chiswell, and is called the New Hotel; the other at Fortune's Well, and is known by the sign of the Portland Arms. These houses meet with great encouragement, as there is scarcely a person that comes to Weymouth, who does not devote a day to visit the romantic scenery of Portland, which contains seven

villages, Chissel-Fortune, Wells, Rayfourne, Wakeham, West Town, East Town, and South Wall. The inhabitants, about two thousand in number, are a robust and hardy race. They were formerly famous for slinging of stones, and were the ancient Baleares of Britain. They are an honest simple people, and their integrity has become proverbial, "On the word of a Portland man," is esteemed a high sanction in contracts and engagements. They have also some particular customs to which they adhere with inviolable constancy. On the summit of the hill behind the Portland Arms, are some traces of a Roman encampment, and the landlord of this house usually has it in his power to shew the *Reevepoole*, or Saxon mode of keeping accounts, and by which the bailiff of the island collects the manor dues, as on this pole every acre of land within its limits are described. This island, during the times of the Saxons, was much infested by the Danes.

After this period it became part of the possessions of the church of Winchester. It is about seven miles round, and is encompassed with a ridge of high rocks, but is lower in the middle parts, here and there inhabited, producing plenty of corn and good pasture for sheep; but so barren of wood, that the poorer inhabitants use cow dung, dried in the sun, for firing. Portland continued a part of the possession of the church of Winchester, till the 10th year of Edward I. when Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, had it in exchange. The quarries at the west end of the island afford excellent stone, which was first brought into repute in the reign of James I.

Near the Light-houses is a remarkable cavern, from which the water rises up like a fountain, and small boats shelter themselves in it. Portland Race is a dangerous confluence of two tides in the calmest seasons. Portland hill, the southern extremity of the island, is a noted place for seamen, and on it are fixed the light-houses for the direction of ships. Portland contains only one parish, divided into

several hamlets, in which are about 300 houses. Of these, the hamlet of *Cheselton* is the largest. Before it stands *Portland Castle*, which commands Weymouth Road, and is the residence of the Governor, whenever he honours the peninsula with his presence.

In the year 982 the island was plundered by the Danes; in the year 1052 it was plundered by Earl Godwin, who came with a fleet from Bruges; in the year 1404 it was attacked by the French, but they were soon repulsed.

It was fortified in the year 1587 and 1596. Very early in the Civil Wars it was seized by the Parliament.

About the centre of the peninsula are the remains of a very ancient building, distinguished by the name of the *Vicar's House*, of unknown origin. From its present appearance there is reason to conjecture that it was once an oratory, a little chapel for the performance of religious offices, probably destroyed by the Puritans in Cromwell's time.

The inhabitants of Portland are chiefly employed in cutting stone. The quarries we have already mentioned in our account of the mines and minerals of the county.

Returning to Dorchester, in order to pursue our journey to Blandford, about one mile from the former place, on the right, in the parish of Stinsford, is *Kingston House*, the elegant seat of William Moreton Pitt, Esq. It is situated upon a rising ground, surrounded by plantations and grounds beautifully laid out. The house was erected in 1720; but was faced with Portland stone, and in other respects much improved, in 1794.

Five miles from Dorchester, is *Piddleton*, a large parish, with a handsome church, erected in 1505, and containing some curious monuments deserving the notice of travellers on account of their antiquity.

About four miles from hence, is *Milborn St. Andrew*, an ancient manor, given by King Athelstan to Milton Abbey in his charter of foundation. The estate now belongs to Edward Moreton Pleydell, Esq.

In the time of Henry III. there was a market here, which has long been discontinued. The mansion-house is a handsome stone building, surrounded by beautiful plantations and plenty of fine water.

A Roman pavement was discovered about sixty years ago, in a field in the adjoining chapelry of Dewlish, of very considerable dimensions: the *tesseræ* where white and black, about an inch square; a brass medal of Faustina was also found.

In the neighbourhood there are some remains of a Roman camp upon a summit of a hill, of the same description as those before mentioned near Dorchester.

On the left of our road, 3 miles S. E. from hence, is

Bere-Regis,

So called from its having been a royal demense, at present a very inconsiderable market town. It is pleasantly situated on a little river of the same name, and is supposed to have been the site of a Roman station, from there being within the distance of half a mile, on *Woodbury hill*, the undoubted remains of a Roman encampment, with ramparts and ditches.

On this hill a very considerable fair is held, beginning on the nativity of the Virgin Mary, and continuing during the five following days.

The market of Bere Regis was confirmed to the inhabitants by King John, and the town was constituted a borough by Edward I. but it has never been represented in Parliament. It has been twice nearly destroyed by fire, and at present consists of about 200 houses and 936 inhabitants, of whom the largest part are employed in agriculture

On our approach towards Blandford, we pass on our right the village of *Blandford St. Mary*, about a mile distant from the road. The celebrated antiquary BROWN WILLIS was born at this place His history of Cathedrals, Notitia Parliamentaria, and other publications are much esteemed; and his manuscript collections for a history of Buckinghamshire, to the extent of 150 volumes, sufficiently evince his assiduity. He died in 1760, aged 78.

Blandford Forum,

Otherwise *Blandford Chipping*, or *Market Blandford*, is situated near the Downs, in the north-east part of the county, on the great and principal road from London, and all parts of Hampshire, &c. to Weymouth, Exeter, Plymouth, and from thence to the Land's End.

The surrounding country comprises a fine variety of downs, woods, lawns, arable and pasture land, rich vallies, and excellent air. The dry easterly winds, the cold northern, and the western moisture, are tempered by the warm saline breezes, wafted hither from the ocean. It contains about 431 houses and is divided into two parts. One of these is called the Warnership of Pimperne, containing all that part of the town which lies on the left hand of the London road, from the Crown Inn to the end of Salisbury Street, and down again on the right, to the corner house by the Ship. The principal support of the town and neighbouring villages, is the manufacture of thread, waistcoat and shirt buttons, which employs several hundred women and children. There is a great number of gentlemen's families residing in the neighbourhood, which increases yearly, on account of the beauty of the country, and the easy supply of what is wanted from the town, which abounds with shops of every kind; and the industry of its inhabitants has made its trade much superior to any inland town in the county; to which also may be added the great and continual influx of strangers, its fairs, markets, and the races, which are annually held on a fine down, two miles from the town in the parish of Tarrant Monkton, or Launston, in July or August. Formerly bone and point lace were made here; but not since the beginning of the last century. The bishop's and the archdeacon's visitations, for the deanery of Pimperne, are kept here. The town has suffered considerably by several great fires: Camden and Coker speak of one that was before 1579; about 1677

a collection was made for Blandford, on account of another; July 9, 1713, the lower part of East Street was consumed, supposed by some malicious person; June 4, 1731, the whole town (excepting the lower part of East Street, which was burned in the last fire) was destroyed. It began at a soap boiler's, or tallow chandler's, the corner of Brianstone, and Whitecliffe-Mill Streets; three fire engines were burnt or rendered unserviceable in a short time. A brisk north east wind carried the fire into distant parts of the town, and a grocer's shop blew up having a cask of gunpowder in it, by which means the thatch was blown over the town, so that in the space of a quarter of an hour near twenty houses were on fire. The wind shifting to the north-east and east, carried the flakes to every other part of the town, and to the adjacent villages of Blandford St. Mary and Brianstone, and consumed all but three houses. It is remarkable that the houses destroyed by the fire in 1713 and rebuilt, were not burnt in the last fire in 1731; so that in the space of twenty years, the whole town was burnt, except a few out-houses. The fire was so violent and rapid that very little property was saved; above sixty families had the small-pox raging during this calamity, none of whom perished in the flames, but were removed under hedges in the fields, gardens, and under the arches of the bridges, and but one died: a strong and powerful argument for cool regimen. The loss amounted to 85,726l. and upwards, exclusive of insurances. In 1732 an act passed to rebuild the town with brick and tile, in which it was enacted that the streets should be of considerable width, and that combustibles, such as wood, hay, and straw, should be kept in out parts of the town. The King gave 1000l. the Queen 200l. and the Prince of Wales 100l. to be distributed by George Bubb Doddington, Esq. afterwards Lord Melcombe. This town gives title of Marquis to the eldest son of the Duke of Marlborough.

Blandford is styled a borough in ancient records, but sent representatives to Parliament only twice, viz. 33. Edward I. Nicholas de Holt, and Nicholas Horne, and 22 Edward III. Ralph de Usher and Robert de Manyngford.

The town is now governed, under a charter granted by James I., by a bailiff and ten capital burgesses or common council, who have power to purchase and enjoy lands in fee, &c. to have a common seal, and a serjeant at mace. The quarter sessions for the county are held here once a year. Here are two Free Schools and a Blue-Coat School, for twelve boys, who are annually clothed, and at the end of three years put out apprentices. Sunday Schools have been established for boys and girls a few years, and tolerably supported. The Church is an elegant modern structure, 120 feet long, built in 1739, and cost 3,200l.; the tower is 86 feet high, with a spire of 21 feet. The charitable establishments at Blandford are very extensive: besides the schools already mentioned are two almshouses; one founded by George Ryves, Esq. which supports ten poor people, who are paid 2s. 6d. each, weekly; the men have a coat, and the women a gown yearly. The almshouse near the church maintains six poor persons, who are paid 1s. 6d. a week each, and have a load of faggots annually. William Williams, a gentleman of the town, by will, dated 30th June 1621, left 3,000l. to purchase land to the yearly amount of 140l. for 60 years or upwards, and out of the profit to bind two poor fatherless boys to fishermen or masters of ships, out of Blandford, Shaftesbury, and the parish of Saint James and Sturminster Newton; fourteen pounds to be yearly disbursed towards placing and clothing the said boys, and some part of that sum to provide for each of them two suits of apparel. The residue to be distributed among such clothiers, serge-makers, linen-weavers, stuff-makers, and felt makers, inhabiting the said towns, giving five pounds at least, and not above eight,

pounds at most. If any of these should be impoverished by fire, &c. to be relieved out of part of what is given to the tradesmen. The produce of the remainder of his goods and chattels endowed the almshouses last mentioned.

Blandford is one of the handsomest towns in Dorsetshire, and there appears more life and activity in it than in the others. It is chiefly supported by travellers, by its markets and fairs, and by the races that are annually held in July or August, on a down in the parish of Tarrant Monkton. Till the beginning of the eighteenth century, fine lace, or point, nearly equal to that of Flanders, and valued at 30l. a yard, was made here. It was before that period famous for the manufacture of band-strings; at present shirt buttons are the only articles manufactured here.

At a small distance from the bottom of the town was a remarkable oak-tree, called Damary Oak; in 1747, it measured 75 feet, the branches extending 72 feet, though many were torn off in a storm in 1703. The trunk was 12 feet in diameter, at 17 feet above ground; the circumference on the surface of the ground was 68 feet; and its diameter 23; the cavity at bottom was 15 feet wide, and 17 high, and would contain near 20 men. During the Civil War, and till after the restoration, an old man sold ale in it. After Blandford was burnt down in 1731, a family lived in it. It was sold standing for 14l and rooted up in 1755, the wood being fit for little more than firing.

Damary Court, within the precincts of which this remarkable tree stood, was formerly the Mansion House of the ancient Lords of this Demesne, who were Barons of the realm, and held great offices under Government. Roger D'Amorie was Constable of Knaresborough and Corfe Castle, and Governor of the Castles of Gloucester and St. Buavel.

Blandford has a good weekly market on Saturday; is distant from London 106 miles. Its present population appears to be 2,336 inhabitants.

On the left of Blandford, about half a mile distant,

is *Brianston*, a small village, remarkable only for the elegant Mansion of Edward Berkely Portman, Esq. A beautiful cliff covered with wood, extends from the mansion to Blandford Bridge. The house is built of free stone, nearly on the site of the ancient mansion, from the designs of Mr. Wyatt. The apartments are finished in an elegant style, and admired for their proportions as well as decorations. Among the paintings is a fine one, by Stubbs, of a tiger basking at the entrance of his den.

In the parish of Pimperne, in a field not far from Blandford, there was formerly a remarkable piece of antiquity called *Pimperne Maze;* a sort of labyrinth formed by ridges of earth about a foot high, extending nearly over an acre of ground. It is supposed by Dr. Stukeley to have been a Roman work, and of that class of antiquities called by him *Julian Bowers.* About the year 1730 the whole was ploughed up.

Cranborne.

About three miles on the right of our road, near the north-east borders of the county, is Cranborne, a small market-town, in the hundred of the same name, 94 miles from London; remarkable in the Saxon and Norman times, for "its monastery, chace, and Lords." It is a pleasant clean place, and the surrounding country very beautiful. The Monastery was founded by one *Haylward de Mean*, and was afterwards annexed to the Abbey of Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, long before the dissolution of religious houses.

The parish of Cranborne is the largest in the whole county, being full forty miles in circuit, and twelve miles in length. Part of the ancient Castle or Mansion-House still remains. The Church, which is situated at the west end of the town, was the Priory Church, and is supposed to be the oldest in the county, as well as the largest.

On the Castle Hill, a little south of the town, is a circular fortification, in the area of which is a well; and on the downs near it are several barrows.

The Chase extends into Wiltshire, and has been such by prescription, having been deemed a forest.

Cranborne contains 144 houses, and 816 inhabitants, chiefly employed in agriculture. The town is divided into three liberties; viz. the Priory, the Tithing, and Borough.

The principal offices are a constable, bailiff of the borough, and tithing-man of the priory.

The weekly market is on Thursday.

In Cranborne is a very fine old house belonging to the Marquis of Salisbury. Cranborne is the seat of ——— Tregonwell, Esq.

About two miles from Cranborne is Wimborn St. Giles, and St. Giles, the seat of the earl of Shaftesbury; and about five miles distant is Moor Critchell, the noble seat of the late Charles Sturt. Esq. In the gardens of St. Giles, is the finest grotto in England, formed at an expence of not less than 10,000*l.*

Journey from Crewkerne in Devonshire to Sandwich; through Beaminster, Frampton, Dorchester, and Corfe-Castle.

The first town upon our route, after entering the county of Dorset, is

Beaminster,

An agreeable town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Birt, in a deep and fertile vale, surrounded by gardens and orchards. It is in the parish of Netherbury, and was formerly of more importance than at present, as it gives name to the hundred. The town was nearly destroyed by fire in 1645, and again in 1686. The river Birt issues from several springs on the north side of the town, and after flowing through the town, and the valley which lies between it and Bridport, falls into the sea at Bridport Harbour.

In this parish are three manors, called Beaminster Prima, Beaminster Secunda, and Beaminster Parsonatus, belonging to the three prebends in Salisbury Cathedral. The lands belonging to the three manors are transferred from one tenant to another by surrender, which is registered in the Lord's Court: and the tenant has a right, on his death, to appoint his successor by a special instrument, called a nomination.

In the middle of the town stands the Market-house, which is a modern building. The quarter sessions were held here in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the beginning of that of Charles I. Near the Market-house was formerly a cross, whose site was exempt from the tolls of the market.

The Church or Chapel, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, stands on an eminence, on the south side of the town; it consists of a body, two side aisles, a chancel, and a small aisle on the north side of the chancel, anciently used for a chantry. This Tower is the chief object of admiration, being near 100 feet high, and extremely well proportioned, consisting of three stories, with double buttresses at the angles, enriched with niches towards the basement, and terminating with small angular shafts; the west front exhibits a design and variety of decoration peculiarly handsome, with pannels, pinnacles, &c. A band, or cornice of enriched quatre-foils, extends round the fronts and sides of the tower, at the springing of the arch of the door, and a similar cornice above the window divides the stories, forming altogether a very handsome design.

In the church-yard is an Alms-house founded in the year 1634, by Sir John Strode, of Parnham, Knt. and also a Free School, for teaching 20 poor boys of the town, reading, writing, and arithmetic, founded by Mrs. Francis Tucker, in the reign of William III. The master receives the yearly salary of 20l. issuing from a farm called Marsh, situated on the east side of the town; and the residue of the rent, amounting to near 80l. a year, is employed in binding out poor children apprentices.

The Workhouse was anciently an Alms-house, founded by Gilbert Adams, mercer, in 1626, who gave, by his will, a sum of money, for its maintenance, with which was purchased an estate, situate at Allens Loscombe, about four miles from the town, of the annual value of eighteen pounds; another estate, called Emley-wood, situated in the parish of

Corscombe, was given to the poor of Beaminster, by the Rev. William Hillary, of Minstead, in the county of Hants, in the year 1712. This benefaction was directed to take place after the expiration of 99 years from his decease.

A congregation of Protestant Dissenters has existed in the town, from the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662. The Vicar of the parish has always resided at Netherbury, where stands the vicarage-house. This living is supposed to produce upwards of 500*l.* a year, notwithstanding the occupiers of lands are entitled to the privilege of paying small sums of money in lieu of several species of their tythes.

The manufacture of woollen cloth was established in this town at an early period, and is still in a thriving state. Here is also a considerable sail-cloth manufactory, as also of locks and other iron, tin, and copper goods, for home consumption and exportation. The convenience of water has afforded great encouragement to the tanning business; and many machines, in the various trades of the town, are worked by water only. One sail cloth manufactory at Beaminster alone has employed 600 people, and in and about the environs of the town there have been upwards of 2000 persons employed by them and others in making twine, string, packthread, netting, cordage, and ropes.

At this place is a regular daily post from Bridport, which is managed by a post-master, chosen by the principal inhabitants. The number of houses appears to be 445, and 2290 inhabitants.

The market day is on Thursday; and a fair is annually holden on the 19th of September, which has existed ever since the 12th of Edward I. Of late years there have been two public sales, for cattle, cheese, &c. on the 4th of April and 9th of October. The town is distant from London 133 miles.

On the south side of the town is *Parnham*, the seat of Sir William Oglander, Bart. a large and ancient structure. Upon a pane of painted glass in the hall,

there is the arms of "John Strode, 1449." From the family of this name, it passed in 1699 to that of the present owner by marriage.

On the east of Beaminster is a large farm, called Langdon-farm, held by lease under the Bishop of Sarum.

The hills which surround the town of Beaminster afford very extensive and pleasing prospects, particularly *Lewesdon Hill*, the subject of a fine poem in blank verse, by the Rev. William Crowe, public orator of the University of Oxford.

The poet is supposed to be traversing the summit on a May morning, and surveying the surrounding objects of Pillesdon hill, Shipton hill, Burton cliff, and Eggerdon hill.

"From this proud eminence, on all sides round
Th' unbroken prospect opens to my view;
On all sides large: save only where the head
Of Pillisdon rises, Pillisdon's lofty Pen;
So call (still rendering to his ancient name
Observance due) that rival height south west,
Which like a rampire bounds the vale beneath."

LEWESDON HILL.

Mr. Cox's gardens and pleasure grounds in this neighbourhood are deserving the attention of the curious traveller.

About a mile from Lewesdon hill is *Pillesdon Pen*, another remarkably high hill, on the north side of the village. Both these hills form eminent sea-marks, and are called by the seamen the *Cow* and *Calf*. On the eastern summit of Pillesdon Pen are the vestiges of the same sort of encampment as we have before described.

Lambert's Castle Hill, an ancient fortification in the parish of White Church Canoniconum, is of vast height, in the form of a Roman D; having triple trenches and ditches with their entrance. The area within the ramparts is estimated at about twelve acres.

About eight miles from Beaminster, we enter *Mar-*

den Newton, a large parish, which takes its principal name from being at its first building new in comparison with some other adjacent places. The etymology of its additional name is utterly unknown.

It seems anciently to have been a liberty, for in the 35th year of the reign of Edward III. Henry duke of Lancaster held the Hundred of *Marden Newton* of the King in chief by knight's service, as did Matilda, Duchess of Bavaria, 36 Edward. III. John of Gaunt, in right of his wife, in the same year.

In Doomsday Book *Waleranus Venator* held Newton; it consisted of six hides, worth 10*l*. This is the only parcel of land surveyed in this parish, and seems to have been then the principal and only manor. But it was, in after ages, divided into three or four parts.

In the fifth year of the reign of Henry the Third, a market was granted at Newton.

Three miles from hence, and about two miles on the south of Marden Newton, in the parish of Toller Fratrum, is the Hamlet of *Winford Eagle*, celebrated as the birth place of the great SYDENHAM. This eminent physician was born in 1624; became a commoner of Magdalen Hall in 1642; but left Oxford after it was made a garrison, and retired to London, where Dr. Cox, observing his great abilities, encouraged him to study physic. After the surrender of Oxford he returned to Magdalen Hall, and was, at the Pembrochian Creation, made M. B. in 1648, though he had no degree before; and was made fellow of All Soul's College, by the Parliament, in the room of an ejected Loyalist. After some years, he left the University without taking any further degree; settled in Westminster, and became M. D. at Cambridge. From the year 1660 to 1670 he was the most eminent physician in London; he was famous for his cool regimen in the small pox, (which his greatest adversaries have been compelled to follow); for his method of giving bark in agues, and for his administering of laudanum. He died at his

house in Pall-Mall, 29th December, 1689, and was buried in the south aisle, near the south door of St. James's Church, Westminster.

Eleven miles from Beaminster is

Frampton,

A small town, situated about four miles to the north-west of Dorchester. It received its name from its situation on the river Frome, over which it has a good stone bridge. During the time of the West Saxon Kings, there was a priory here, which was afterwards given by William the Conqueror to the Abbey of Black Monks of St. Stephen in Normandy. It was, however, dissolved by Henry VI. and their rents, which amounted to 120 marks per annum, he bestowed on the canons of St. Stephen's in Westminster. Being a manor at a time of the dissolution of religious houses, it became the property of the crown, and since passed into different hands. The only building in the town attracting particular notice is the Mansion House, built of Portland stone, and a very elegant structure. The town is pleasantly situated, and the river Frome supplies the inhabitants with abundance of fish, particularly trout, which are very large and excellent in their quality. Frampton House is the seat of —— Browne, Esq.

About four miles to the north of Frampton is *Cerne Abbey*, which, according to William of Malmesbury, Camden, and others, was founded as early as the time of St. Austin, whose zeal in the conversion of the Saxons to the Christian faith led him into these parts, where, it is said, he performed several miracles. The earliest period, however, at which we have any *certain* account of a religious society existing here, is the year 870, when Edward, brother of St. Edmund, King of East Anglia, is said to have resided in it. Through veneration for the memory of that monarch, Alimer, Earl of Cornwall and Devon, rebuilt and endowed the abbey of Cerne, for Benedictine Monks, about 987. Among the distin-

guished men who have lived in it was Cardinal Morton. The gate-house of the abbey remains externally entire; but does not appear to be of a date long prior to the dissolution. There are two stories above the gateway, each having a projecting window, which is adorned with elaborate sculpture. Some buildings south of the gate appear to have belonged to the abbey, and are more ancient than the former; but have been converted into a farm-house and other dwellings. A mansion facing Market-Street was constructed principally with the old stone, and bears the name of the *Abbey-house*, which was sometime the residence of Denzel, Lord Holles, second son of John, first Earl of Clare, and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Treaty of Breda.

The conventual church stood probably east of the abbey, and parallel to the present church-yard. Dr. Maton apprehends it must have been used for parochial purposes, otherwise the burial ground would not have been contiguous to it; the present church is some hundred yards distant from the latter.

CERNE,

Is a small town situated in a pleasant valley surrounded on all sides by high hills. It derives its name from the river Cerne, which runs through and waters the vale. The population of Cerne appears to be 145, and the number of houses 795. It has a well-frequented market and a good trade in malting and brewing. "The scenery south of this town improves in boldness, and the ridges of chalk that rear themselves with an immense naked outline about *Sidding*, form a species of landscape not often witnessed in other counties."

Near Cerne is a very steep hill, on the side of which is the figure of a giant, curiously cut in the earth, or rather the turf and earth bared to the chalk, in the same manner as the famous White Horse in Berkshire, or that near Calne, Wiltshire. It is intended to represent a man holding a club in his right hand, and extending the other. The whole figure

is 180 feet high, with the members of proportionable magnitude. It is repaired from time to time by the towns-people.

About a mile and a half before we reach Dorchester we pass, on our left, *Woolveton House*, in the parish of Charminster, an ancient and magnificent seat of the Trenchard Family, built in the reign of King Henry the Seventh. The Hall is large, and, as are all the principal rooms, is adorned with wainscot and fret-work. On the wainscot are carved the kings of England, which are said to resemble their figures in the first edition of Rastal's History of England. Mr. Aubrey, in his Miscellanies, says, that on November the 3d, 1640, the day the Long Parliament began to sit, the sceptre fell from the figure of King Charles I. while the family and a large company were at dinner in the parlour. On the screen are the arms and quarterings of Trenchard, near it to the north was a small domestic chapel. The dining room, ascended to from the hall by a large stone staircase, is a spacious room adorned with a noble bow window.

The ancient carvings and painted glass throughout the premises are well entitled to the notice of the traveller of taste.

Passing through Dorchester, already described, we proceed towards Lulworth Castle. Six miles from Dorchester, on the left of our road, about a quarter of a mile south-east of the small village of Pokeswell, there is a *Druidical Circle*, consisting of fifteen stones; one or two seem missing on the north-west, where, perhaps, was an entrance. Some of them are quite level with, and some but little above, the surface of the ground. Two of them, on the south-west, are about two feet high, and broad; some are scarcely one foot high. They are all extremely old, rough, and irregular, and full of holes worn by the weather. They stand on a tump, round which are the remains of a small ditch. The circle is four yards and a half in diameter. Eight or nine paces

from it are three or four erect stones, which seem the remains of another circle; and about 200 yards distant, at the north-east and east, are four pretty large stones, which perhaps formed another large circle, or, possibly, an avenue to the former."

About five miles before we reach Wareham, on the right of the road, pleasantly situated in a valley, on the banks of the river Frome, are some remains of *Bindon Abbey*, founded in 1172, by Roger, or Robert de Newborough. Bindon Abbey was demolished upon the dissolution. The Abbey Church was a magnificent structure, of which there are now hardly any remains. A Plan of the Abbey has been obtained and engraved by the exertions, and at the expence, of the present proprietor, Mr. Weld.

According to Mr. Hutchins, "the Abbey Church appears to have been a large ancient fabric; five large semicircular arches, supported by six massy round pillars sunk deep in the earth, and four windows above the arches, remained when Mr. Buck drew and engraved it in 1733. The north wall of the body, seventy feet in length, and forty-two feet high, and part of the wall of the north aisle, twenty one feet, and above a yard thick, remained in 1770; all the rest is completely ruined. The north and south aisles were equal, one hundred and fifteen feet long, by fourteen feet broad. The body, including the choir, was one hundred and seventy feet long, and thirty feet broad. The eastern part of it seems to have extended twenty-four paces beyond the present ruins; perhaps here was a chapel to the Virgin Mary, as was usual in most conventual churches. The tower is 58 by 38 feet square. The intercolumniations are ten feet; the circumference of the pillars ten feet. Here were formerly six pillars on each side of the body. Some on the south were blown down in the great storm in 1703. The precincts, including the ruins of the church and site of the abbey, take up ten acres. The cemetery seems to have been on the north side of the church, where bones have been dug up."

In tracing the foundations of the building, immediately below the footstep of the side altar, the figure of an abbot was discovered, of the natural size, surrounded by the following inscription in old English characters.

"Abbas Ricardus de Manners hic Tumulatur
Ad pœnas tardus Deus hunc Salvam tudatur!"

The greatest curiosity, however, discovered here, was the sepulchral statue of a child, being about two feet in length, habited in the dress and ornaments of an abbot. It was found near where stood the stair-case. In order to account for this singularity, we must have resort to the ancient custom, by which one of the children of the choir, on the festival and during the whole octave of Holy Innocents, was in Cathedral Churches permitted to wear the insignia of a Bishop, and in Abbatical Churches those of an Abbot. Hence if the juvenile bishop or abbot, as we may suppose was the case at Bindon, happened to die in the course of this festivity, there is no doubt but what he would be represented in the ornaments which he was entitled to wear during that period. There is just such a figure in Salisbury Cathedral, engraved in the introduction to the second volume of the Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain, plate iv. fig. 1.

Soon after the commencement of the Revolution in France, Mr. Weld appropriated a building in the vicinity of the Abbey, under the sanction of government, to the accommodation of some emigrant monks of the order of Le Trappe. In 1817, Louis the XVIIIth recalled this society of the monks of Le Trappe to France.

WAREHAM,

Is situated on a peninsula formed by the rivers Frome and Piddle, near their confluence with the waters of Poole Harbour, and is supposed to derive its name from *Vara* ham, a habitation on a fishing shore. The Romans had a station here, and Mr. Baxter and others imagine it to have been the *Morino* of Ravennas, and Richard of Cirencester.

The town is situated on a rising ground, declining gently to the south, and is ten miles from Poole. The soil about Wareham is a black-sand. The form of the town is very regular, almost a long square; the streets intersecting one another at right angles, particularly the four principal ones, which divide the town, into regular quarters. The area of the town, within the walls, is computed at about 100 acres, containing a population of 1,079 inhabitants.

Wareham was anciently a borough by prescription, and it possessed a charter from Queen Elizabeth, investing the government of the town in a mayor, six burgesses, and other corporate officers. The mayor is coroner of the town. and the isles of Purbeck and Brownsea. The charter under which the present corporation was constituted, was obtained from Queen Anne in 1708. The ancient records of the town are lost. The representatives in Parliament are elected by the mayor and corporation, the inhabitants who pay scot and lot, and the freeholders; the number of voters about 150.

Wareham was once a very large and populous town, though, in consequence of frequent ravages by fire, devastations by wars, and the retreat of the sea from its port, now an inconsiderable place. In Edward the Confessor's time, it had two mints; and William the Conqueror added to its importance by building a strong castle, of which, however, there is nothing to point out the site, except the name of Castle-Close, a spot which is now a deal-yard, on the south side of the town. Traces of other fortifications may be seen in several places.

Near St. Mary's Church, there are some remains of a Priory (now converted into a dwelling and malt-house,) which was one of the most ancient religious establishments in the county, and is said to have been founded by St. Adhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, about the year 709. There are two churches besides St. Mary's; but divine service has been discontinued in them, and they are going fast

to decay. The latter is a spacious handsome fabri with an embattled tower.

Near the town, in a close now called Castle Close, there was formerly a castle (of which nothing now remains) remarkable for the imprisonment and horrid death of Robert de Belesme, Earl of Montgomery, who being doomed to close confinement in this castle, for rebellion against Henry the First in 1114, he starved himself to death.

The Free-School at Wareham is endowed with twenty-five pounds per annum for a master, there is also 10l. per annum for a person to teach the poor children of Wareham the English tongue: and an Alms-house for the maintenance of eleven poor people.

The Quay is on the south side of the town, and is very commodious; but the trade is now inconsiderable. The chief article of exportation is pipe-clay, of which 10,000 tons are annually shipped off to London, Hull, Liverpool, Glasgow, and for the supply of various potteries.

Isle of Purbeck.

The bridge over the Frome from Wareham connects the northern part of the county with the Isle of Purbeck, which comprises the whole of the south-east corner of Dorsetshire, from Luckford Lake, on the west, to the sea, and the river Frome, on the remaining sides. Though called an island, it is not properly so, as it joins the main land next the parish of East Lullworth; it is rather a peninsula, twelve miles in length and seven in breadth. "King John made the island a forest, but by right it ought only to have been a hare-warren. The forest extended over the whole isle, and the woods were well stocked with red and fallow deer and stags, especially in the west part; but these were destroyed in the Civil Wars; and few, if any, have remained in the memory of man. James I. was the last of our kings who hunted here. In former ages there were many gentlemen's seats dispersed all over the isle, now con-

verted into farm-houses; most of them are spacious, but appear to have been larger. They were probably built for the reception and convenience of the nobility and gentry who attended the royal hunts here, as most of the owners of estates on this part of the county had their seats elsewhere, and only came hither in the hunting season. The quarries, shores, and cliffs, on the north side of the isle, afford an inexhaustible fund of natural curiosities. The quarries are chiefly near Kingston Wash, Langlor, and Swanwick. In many parts of the island is a stone that rises thin, and is used for tiling; also a hard paving stone, which sweats against change of weather; much of it was used in rebuilding London after the fire; particularly St. Paul's Cathedral; and for paving the streets and courts. In the new Bridge of Westminster, over the fossit of each arch, built with large Portland block, is another arch of Purbeck, bounded in with Portland stone: great quantities were used to build Ramsgate Pier. This is the *Ammites*, or freestone of various colours and qualities. At Swanwick is a white stone full of shells, which takes a polish and looks like alabaster: about Wareham and Moden is found a stone of an iron colour, called fire-stone, which rises in blocks sometimes very large. At and near Dunshay was formerly dug marble of several colours; blue, red, spotted, and grey, but chiefly the latter; all of a coarse sort. The grey is a congeries of shells; vast quantities of it are found in all our ancient churches, parochial, conventual, and cathedral; and it was in great repute for grave stones and monuments. The *Cornua Ammonis* are frequently found in stones in the quarries, some of them two or three feet in diameter.

CORFE CASTLE,

Is an ancient market-town, nearly in the centre of the Isle of Purbeck, situated on a rising ground, below a range of hills. This was a town of great repute before the Norman Conquest, having the

same privileges as the Cinque Ports, its magistrates in old writs being styled barons. It consists of two streets. The town is separated from the castle by a stately bridge, of four very high arches, over a very deep dry ditch. On the west side of the church-yard is the Town-Hall. It has a large lofty Church, which is a royal peculiar, exempt from episcopal jurisdiction or visitation. It consists of a nave, a chancel, and two aisles as long as the church. The tower is very large, embattled, and pinnacled, with some singular statues under it, supported by four Saxon pillars; but each different. The town was a borough by prescription; but incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards by Charles II. The government of the town at present is vested in a mayor and eight *barons* (each gaining the title, of baron by serving the office of mayor), who claims, as before-mentioned, the same privileges as the Barons of the Cinque Ports. The mayor, as is also his predecessor, is a justice of peace, and can hold sessions, chuse coroners for life, counsellors, ale-tasters, &c. which were privileges granted to them by King Charles I. as a reward for the very noble defence the castle made for him.

This borough never sent members to Parliament before the 14th of Queen Elizabeth, who granted it this privilege by charter.

The right of election is possessed by all persons within the borough, who are seised in fee, in possession or reversion of any messuage or tenement, or corporal hereditament, and in such as are tenants for life or lives, and in want of such freeholders in tenants for years determinable on any life or lives paying scot and lot. The number of voters is between 40 and 50.

CORFE CASTLE

Stands a little north of the town, opposite to the Church, on a very steep rocky hill, mingled with hard rubble chalk stone, in the opening of those ranges of hills that inclose the east part of the Isle. Its

situation between the end of those hills deprive it much of its natural and artificial strength, being so commanded by them, that they overlook the tops of the highest towers; yet its structure is so strong, the ascent of the hill on all sides, but the south so steep, and the walls so massy and thick, that it must have been one of the most impregnable fortresses in the kingdom before the invention of artillery. It was of great importance in respect to its command over the whole isle; whence our Saxon ancestors justly styled it Corfe Gate, as being the pass and avenue into the best part of the isle.

The remains of this once beautiful fabric exteth about half a mile in circuit, of an oval form, wie walls twelve feet thick. The outer gate is larg, with a round tower on each side. The first ward has towers. Passing a second bridge of one arch, you enter the second ward, which probably was the spot where the cruel murder of King Edward was committed. Great part of the walls of this ward is in ruins, 23 feet of it having sunk near half its height into the ditch, but yet remains perpendicular: in this ward are the ruins of five towers. The third and principal ward was on the highest part of the hill, where stood several buildings now in ruins, built on vaults, for store-rooms, &c. where was erected a platform in 1586 for five pieces of cannon. The fourth ward had in it a small garden. It is said that in this part stood the house of Elfrida, the widow of King Edgar, who during her residence here occasioned the murder of her son-in law Edward. The particulars of this event Mr. Hutchins relates in the following words:

"The first mention of this castle in our histories is A. D. 978, as the Saxon annals, (though some of our historians say 979 and 981) upon occasion of the barbarous murder of Edward, King of the West Saxons, son of King Edgar, committed here by his mother-in-law, Elfrith, or Elfrida; 15 Cal. April, in the middle of Lent. The foulest deed, says the

Saxon annalist, ever committed by the Saxons since they landed in Britain. This transaction, and the motives to it, are so fully recorded by all our historians, that I shall content myself with mentioning a few incidents from Brompton.

"This unfortunate Prince hunting in a large wood near Wareham, when the chase was ended, towards evening, recollecting that his brother resided hard by, resolved to make him a visit. Near this wood was Elfrida's house, were his mother was brought up, in a place called *corph*, (Br. *a body*,) three miles from Wareham, where now a famous castle is built. He had lost his attendants; which Elfrida having notice of, thought it a favourable opportunity to execute her wicked purpose; and went to meet him with her wicked retinue, and in a most affable and friendly manner invited him to alight, which he declined, but expressed a wish to see his brother. She then called for wine, which he had scarce put to his lips, when one of her attendants, who had given the King the kiss of peace, stabbed him in the back, or as others say in the belly. Knighton and Huntington say, Elfrida herself gave him both the kiss and the mortal wound, whilst he was drinking. Finding himself wounded, he rode away: but, fainting with loss of blood, his foot entangled in the stirrup, and he was dragged a considerable way, till the horse stopped of his own accord. The servants sent by Elfrida to know the issue of her treachery, found the unhappy Prince dead, terribly defaced with the flints over which he had been dragged. The Queen, to conceal the fact, ordered his body to be lodged in a house near, where it was covered with such mean clothes as were at hand. In this house lived a woman who had been born blind, and maintained by the Queen's alms. At midnight she found her sight restored, and, to her great terror, the house filled with light. On this spot a church was afterwards built. In the morning the Queen being informed of these cir-

cumstances, fearing a discovery, ordered her attendants to convey the corpse secretly into a private and marshy place, where it could not easily be found. Others say she caused it to be thrown into a well. She then, to prevent suspicion, retired to a mansion of her's called *Bere*, ten miles distant. Her own son Ethelred expressing his grief for his mother's wickedness, she beat him so severely with wax tapers, for want of something else, that the hated them ever after. Others say she had beaten Edward with them in Ethelred's presence.

"The year following the body was found by the devout search of some faithful persons, by warning from heaven: a pillar of fire, descending from above illuminated the place where it was hid. Some devout people of Wareham brought it to that rill, to the church of St. Mary's, and buried it in a plain manner on the east side; where a wooden church, afterwards built by religious persons, was to be seen in this author's time. The fountain where the body had lain yielded pure and sweet water, and was called *St. Edward's Fountain*; at which infirm people were daily healed. The news of these transactions being circulated, Alfer, Earl of Mercia, a faithful adherent to the deceased King, hearing the body was found, resolved to move it to a more suitable place; and inviting the bishops, abbots, and nobility to assist him, sent to Wolfrida, abbess of Wilton, to come with her nuns to perform the exequies. In that house was a sister of King Edward, daughter of King Edgar and Wolfrida, before she became a nun. The company being joined by a great multitude of the country people, came to Wareham; where the body on being taken out of the tomb in which it had lain three years, was found as free from corruption as on the day it was placed in it. Thence it was, the same year, carried on a bier to Shaftesbury. Among the concourse of people were two poor lame persons, who were cured on approaching the bier. Elfrida, struck with re-

morse, prepared to follow the procession on horseback, and ask pardon for her crime; but her utmost effort could not prevent the horse from running backwards. She attempted to go on foot, with no better success; Knyghton says she tried several horses, but not being able to make them go on, or get forward herself, she committed the charge of the business to Alfer. The royal corpse was received at Shaston by the abbess, and entombed on the north side of the principal altar, 12th cal. March. Elfrida's ambition to raise her own son to the throne, urged her to commit this execrable murder; and, in order to expiate it and others, she had recourse to the general remedy of that age for an uneasy conscience, founding and endowing two nunneries, at Ambresbury, in Wiltshire, and Whorwell in Hampshire; in which last she took the habit, and spent the remaining part of her life in great austerity and superstitious dread, and was buried there. The manner of this Prince's death, and the affection of the monks, whom he much favoured, gained him the surname of Martyr."

In the year 1327, the unfortunate Edward II. after he had surrendered his crown, was a short time confined in this castle, being removed hither by order of the Queen and Mortimer, from Kenelworth Castle. He was taken from the latter place first to Bristol, and afterwards to Berkeley Castle, suffering all the way every hardship and indignity the brutal tempers of his two keepers, Sir John Maltravers and Sir Thomas Gurney, could suggest, in hopes this fatigue and ill-treatment would shorten his days; but this not succeeding, they conducted him to Corfe Castle, where he was put to death in a very cruel and unheard-of manner, by thrusting a horn pipe up his body, through which a red-hot piece of iron was then conveyed. They pursued this diabolical method, to prevent any marks of violence being seen on his corpse.

The above are not the only circumstances of cru-

elty attached to the history of this Castle. Dr. Maton, who visited it, observes:

"We could not view without horror, the dungeons which remain in some of the towers: they recalled to our memory the truly diabolical cruelty of King John, by whose order 22 prisoners confined in them were starved to death. Mathew of Paris, the historian, says, that many of these unfortunate men were among the first of the nobility of Poictu. Another instance of John's barbarous disposition was his treatment of Peter of Pontefract, a poor hermit, who was imprisoned in Corfe Castle for prophecying the deposition of that Prince. Though the prophecy was in some measure fulfilled, by the surrender which John made of his crown to the Pope's legate, the year following, yet the imprudent prophet was sentenced to be dragged through the streets of Wareham, tied to horses' tails."

In the time of Charles I. the lady of Sir John Banks became illustrious, from the gallant manner in which she defended this Castle from the attacks of the Parliament forces. The particulars of this defence are amply detailed in Hutchins's Dorset.

In the year 1645 and 1646, the Castle was again besieged by the parliament forces, and taken by them, through the treachery of Lt. Col. Pitman, an officer of the garrison. After obtaining possession of the Castle, the Parliament ordered it to be demolished, which was accordingly completely done. Thus this ancient and magnificent fabric was reduced to a heap of ruins, and remains a lasting monument of the dreadful effects of anarchy, and the rage of civil war. The ruins are large, and allowed to be the noblest and grandest in the kingdom, considering the extent of ground on which they stand. The vast fragments of the King's Tower, the round towers leaning as if ready to fall, the broken walls, and vast pieces of them tumbled down into the vale below, form such a scene of havoc and devastation, as strikes every curious spectator with horror and concern.

From Corfe Castle we shall make an excursion in order to visit Lullworth Castle, and the western part of the Isle of Purbeck.

Two miles from Corfe Castle is *Grange*, or *Creech Grange*, the seat of John Bond, Esq. formerly part of the possessions of the Abbey of Bindon. The mansion is elegant and convenient, and the grounds beautifully laid out and planted, forming an agreeable contrast to the dreary heath in the neighbourhood of the estate.

Three miles from hence is *Lullworth Castle*, the seat of Thomas Weld, Esq. it is situated about two miles from the sea, upon an eminence, which commands fine views of the sea, and beautiful prospects of the surrounding country. The Park is nearly four miles in circumference, and is completely walled round. The present mansion was began in 1588, on the site of the ancient Castle, which was standing in the year 1146: an ancestor of Mr. Weld completed the building in 1641.

" Lullworth Castle is an exact cube of 80 feet, with a round tower at each corner, 30 feet in diameter, and rising 16 feet above the walls, which, as well as the towers, are embattled. The walls are six feet thick: the offices are under ground, arched with stone. The house has three stories, but the towers four: in each front are three rows of four windows: in the towers are four rows of three each, exclusive of the offices. The hall and dining-room are large, and the rooms are in general 18 feet high. In the apartments are some family portraits, executed by the celebrated Sir Peter Lely. The principal front is on the east, and faced with Chilmark-stone, before it was a large court, now laid into the lawn, leading to the land-place, which is guarded by a ballustrade of stone (which, in the late Edward Weld's time, only extended along the east front,) called the Cloisters, because paved with the stones taken from the Cloisters of Bindon Abbey: this has been continued by the present possessor along the north and

south sides, at the extremity of which it forms a terrace to the west, of the same height as itself. Over the doors are statues of two ancient Romans in their gowns. On each side of the door, which is supported by four pillars of the Ionic order, is a large niche, and over them two shields, on which are the arms of Weld, properly blazoned. In the niches are the statues of Music and Painting."

Lullworth Castle is not only admired for its situation, but in itself forms a most superb pile, adorned with statuary, paintings, fine gardens, and other elegant and beautiful accompaniments. The environs are extremely well wooded and happily intersected by hill and dale. Lullworth probably retains the name of castle from its being built on the site of an ancient fortress. The present edifice was completed about 1600; the possessor, being of the Catholic persuasion, has fitted up a beautiful chapel for his servants and tenants of that persuasion. The manner in which Mr. Weld received their Majesties and the royal family, when they did him the honour of a visit some years ago, would reflect a lustre on the taste, opulence, and loyalty of the first subject in the kingdom.

The altar piece of his chapel is decorated in the most costly manner with rich and curious marbles, and the whole structure is entitled to particular notice.

The manor of East Lullworth belonged, very anciently, to the *De Lollworths;* one of those, in the reign of Edward I. granted all his right in it to John De Novo Burgo (Newburgh): in 1641, it became, by purchase, the property of the ancestors of the present possessor.

Upon the sea-coast, near West Lullworth, is *Lullworth Cove*, a curious natural bason, into which the sea flows through a space between the surrounding rocks, sufficiently wide to admit vessels of nearly 100 tons burthen. Dr. Maton describes this interesting place in the following words; "the rocks around

it rise to a great height, particularly those opposite the entrance, which are composed of a hard calcareous grit. Those nearer to the main sea, consist of a shelly lime stone (similar to that of *Peverell Point* and St. Adhelm's Head) and chert: and it is observable, that the strata of these substances, on one side of the Cove, correspond exactly to those on the other, both in direction and texture. It may be remarked too, that the whole range, quite from Peverell Point, makes the same angle about 45 degrees with the horizon, or nearly so, pitching, or dipping in general, to the north. The rocks west of the Cove have been undermined in a singular manner by the sea; and there are large grotesque caverns through which it pours with an awful roar. Immense masses seem just ready to drop into the deep, exhibiting marks of some wonderful convulsion: alterations in their aspect daily take place, and the depth and extent of the sea, within the Cove, have considerably increased within the memory of several natives of the village. About these rocks the *Razor Bill* and *Puffin* lay their eggs. They generally make their appearance towards the middle of May, and migrate before the end of August. The former deposits its eggs on the bare rocks, and even those belonging to different birds are placed contiguous to each other. These eggs are food for the country people, who often run most terrific risks, by trusting themselves, at the end of a rope, to the strengh of one person above, whose footing, should it be insecure, must bring both down the precipice together."

Returning eastward, about four miles from West Lullworth, on the sea-coast, is *Kimeridge*, a miserable village. There is a curious fossil-coal dug on the cliffs bordering Kimeridge Bay, about 16 feet below the summit; and the parish was sometime since found to be productive of alum mines, but no works are at present carried on for obtaining this mineral.

In the parish of Corfe is *Encombe*, the property of Lord Eldon, the present Lord Chancellor. It is

situated in a very deep vale, that opens to the British Channel on the south, and is about a mile and a half from Kingston. It is one of the best farms in the island, consisting of arable and pasture for sheep. The hilly part, as well as the vale, yields a greater plenty of grass, and more beautiful verdure, than is usually seen in this island, and from its fertility has been distinguished by the name of the Golden Bowl. It was anciently a manor and hamlet, and is supposed to belong to Shaston Abbey from its foundation. It was, however, for some ages, the property of the family of the Cullisfords, who had here their mansion-house. In 1734 it experienced one of those revolutions to which property is so much subject, being obliged to be alienated for the payment of debts It was purchased by George Pitt, Esq. of Stratfield Sea, in the county of Southampton, who gave it to his second son, John Pitt, Esq. The ancient seat of the Cullisfords being much decayed, was entirely pulled down in 1734, and an elegant house erected on the site of it. It is built with Purbeck-stone, surrounded with fine plantations of trees, extensive pieces of water, and a noble view of the British Channel.

About two miles from hence is St. Adhelm's Head, a noted sea-mark, being the highest part of the Purbeck coast. It rises nearly 440 feet perpendicularly. Upon the summit are the ruins of a small chapel. It was on this part of the coast that the Halsewell East Indiaman, Captain Pierce, was lost on the morning of the 6th of January, 1786.

Five miles from Corfe Castle is *Swanwich*, or *Swanage*, a large and populous village, in a low situation, at the south-east extremity of the Isle of Purbeck, on the margin of Swanage Bay, which is bounded on one side by Shedland Foreland, and on the other by Peverell Point. Near this place the Danish fleet was wrecked, in the reign of King Alfred. The Bay is extremely commodious for bathing, and of course attracts a few families to the town in the season. All

the houses in Swannage are of stone, the quarries of which are close to the town. The Church is a large building, in various styles of architecture. The tower is said to have been erected before the birth of Christ.

It is, perhaps, the oldest building in the isle, not excepting even Corfe Castle; for though composed of the same sort of stone, this has acquired a greater degree of nitrous incrustation than that has, and, like it, the mortar is almost petrified, or turned into stone by length of time. The walls are very thick, and about 80 feet in perpendicular height: the chief entrance was through a large arch in the east side, which now serves for a passage into the church. In this side, and about half-way the height, is a large arched window. In the upper loft are four lancet windows, one on each side; besides some small apertures for the admission of light, in every loft.

There is a small Herring Fishery here, set on foot by William Moreton Pitt, Esq. The season for fishing usually begins in September, and continues about two months. Considerable quantities, after having been smoked and dried, are shipped for Portsmouth, London, and other places.

Swanwich, however, derives it chief support from the stone-quarries, of which there are upwards of 60 within the parish, constantly worked. When they were originally opened is unknown, as they have been worked time immemorially. It is certain however, that the columns in Salisbury Cathedral, which were finished in 1258, and likewise the Hall at Winchester, an ancient building, are made of the stone (though not now in use,) called Purbeck marble, dug near the fort, at the point of land called Peverel Point, that runs into the sea, and forms one side of Swanwich Bay. There are, likewise, some miles within land, very large quarries, where this marble is supposed to be dug.

" Immense rocks extend along the coast, to St.

Adhelm's Head, and beyond, and it seems to be the basis of the southern part of Purbeck. It exhibits different degrees of fineness, and the decomposition of the shells is much further advanced in some specimens than in others. In the interstices of the strata of lime stone, about Peverel Point, are numerous glittering crystals of selenite, formed in a sort of fibrous marl. The surface of this marl is here and there covered with a fine farinaceous gypsum: and it appears also in an indurated state, constituting alternate strata with the lime-stone. Pyrites abound in the latter: and hence the sulphuric acid concerned in the formation of the selenite and gypsum seems to be obtained."

Between Corfe Castle and Swanage is *Nine-Barrow Down*, so called from its having nine Barrows in a line, which are supposed to be of British construction. According to the late trigonometrical survey, the most elevated part of this Down is 642 feet above the level of the sea, reckoning from low water mark. The ridge terminates at Standfast Point (near Studland,) the white front of which is opposite to the high point, near the Needles.

About three miles eastward from Swanage, is *Studland*, situated near a romantic range of cliffs, which end in a narrow neck of land, called the South-Haven-Point, and forms a boundary to Poole Harbour. The cliffs are composed of a compact yellow sand-stone in which there are several grottos and cavities, darkened by overhanging shrubs. Ferrugineous sand-stone abounds throughout the north-east part of Purbeck, which is a bleak unfruitful heath; and, on account of its proximity to the sea, cliffs and heaps of sand are accumulating.—On the adjacent common are several Barrows or Tumuli; but what particularly demands our notice, is *Adlingstone*, or *Agglestone*, an extraordinary insulated rock, resting on an apparently natural eminence to the west of Studland Bay. On the east front it is convex or gibbous; on the west

nearly flat; on the top, a ridge or bulge runs its whole length from north to south, whence it slopes away to the east six feet and to the west five. There is a considerable cleft in the middle, from east to west; and on the surface are three hollows, or cavities, perhaps rock basons, in which ravens are bred. It is overgrown with heath, and turfs have been cut there: the stone is much worn by the weather, and the surface is very unequal, rough and full of cracks, and likewise parts into horizontal layers, or laminæ, especially on the east side, and at the ends: the quarriers compute its weight at 400 tons. This singular monument, it is supposed from the barrows which surround it, was raised to the memory of some British Prince

THE ISLE OF BROWNSEA.

About three miles north-west of Studland, in Poole Bay, opposite the entrance, is the small Island of Brownsea, containing about 800 acres of sandy soil, but well supplied with water. It belongs to the Sturt family, who have made considerable plantations, and brought many acres of land into cultivation. On the east side of the island is *Brownsea Castle*, erected in Queen Elizabeth's time, for the protection of the town and harbour of Poole. During the Civil Wars it was strongly fortified, but after that time fell to decay. It has lately been fitted up with every convenience for residence.

Journey from Beaminster to Salisbury, by way of Sherbourne and Shaftesbury.

Four miles from Beaminster is *Rampisham*, a small village, remarkable only for its ancient Church, and a curious piece of antiquity in the church-yard: it consists of the remains of a Cross, elevated on three ranges of steps, to the east side of which is annexed a long stone, supposed to be a place to preach from, and to have been formerly covered with a temporary pent-house. Round the four sides of the base is an inscription, of which only the following is legible:

Et sic dicit Porter

* In Homine Fpu *

And above are four compartments of antique sculpture, representing different parts of ecclesiastical history.

There was a tesselated pavement discovered in this parish, in 1799, about 14 feet by 10, destroyed by the ignorance of the neighbours, who broke it up to discover a supposed treasure underneath.

About two miles from Rampisham, on the left of our road, is the village of *Melbury Sampford*, also remarkable for its ancient Church, in the form of a cross, with a tower in the middle. It contains several curious and ancient monuments of the Brownings, and one of the Strangeways, whose magnificent mansion, near the Church, was rebuilt in the beginning of the last century on the site of one considerably more ancient. The boundaries of the consecrated ground are marked by neat free-stone urns; upon which are the following appropriate inscriptions:

"We trace the limits of man's last retreat:
Where good and bad, where poor lie mix'd with great,
Each with his share of sins; but each alone
For mercy trusting to th' Almighty throne.

In this small space is mad Ambition laid,
Who for itself alone thought earth was made:
Pride from her pinnacle thus low is tost;
Here ev'ry hope of Vanity is lost:
To this coarse bed is Luxury confin'd,
And Avarice leaves her darling heaps behind.
Yet think not we encompass Vice alone,
Virtues transcendant to their rest are gone:
Bosoms that melted at each tale of woe,
And hearts forgiving of their greatest foe;
Hands open to each charitable deed,
And doubly bounteous where the claim was need.

Then, heedless wand'rer, stay thy steps, and learn
To place in Virtue's path thy great concern;
Though all, unarm'd, come here alike to lie,
The man who best has liv'd, knows best to die."

"The seat of Lord Ilchester here, was once esteemed one of the largest and completest in this county, and is still one of the best. It was built, according to Mr. Coker, by Sir Giles Strangeways the elder." "The house was rebuilt by Thomas Strangeways, Esq. who died in 1713; and repaired and beautified by Mrs. Strangeways Horner."

The present edifice is beautifully situated on a rising ground, with its principal front towards the east.

The ground around the mansion is diversified by nature in a beautiful irregularity of hill and dale, of verdant pastures, and venerable woods. Various trees, of great size and beauty, present themselves in every point of view. The oak and the elm distinguish themselves above the rest: of the former there is one, whose circumference exceeds 32 feet. At a pleasing distance from the south front, the canal extends itself into the shape and size of a majestic river, whose opposite bank is clothed with a numerous assemblage of lofty forest-trees. These cover the base of a hill, whose summit rises over their tops, and extends in a delightful terrace to the east and west. Hence the eye traverses an immeasurable tract of country. On the east, the bold prominence of Bub Down presents the first object; and at the distance of almost 30 miles, in the same line, the entrenchments at Hambledon Hill, and the town of Shaftesbury, are distinctly seen. Proceeding northwards, Bradley Knoll, Alfred's Tower, Wells Cathedral, the Mendip range of Hills, the wonderful chasm of Chedder cliffs, and other remarkable objects, rise to view. On the north-west are the Quantock Hills; and to the west the eye catches the appearance of a forest stretching to an immense distance, whose utmost boundaries reach the clouds.

On the right of our road, nearly opposite to Melbury Sampford, is *Evershot*, a small town, pleasantly situated near the source of the River Frome, on the borders of Somersetshire. It had anciently a chan-

try, which was suppressed on the dissolution of alien priories, in the reign of Henry VI. but not the least remains of it are now to be seen. The church is an old Gothic structure, under the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury. There is a Charity school here for boys and girls. The weekly market is on Friday, and there is one annual fair, held on the 12th of May.

About five miles north of Melbury Samford, is *Yateminster*, a large parish, giving its name to a hundred, three miles north-west from Stokewood, on the western borders of the county, near the River Ivel. Yateminster consists of a very long street, and the houses being in general well-built, it has the appearance of a town. In ancient records it is often wrote Gateminster, y and g being formerly used indiscriminately, and it seems to have been so called from some remarkable gate or pass here. Tradition says it was the principal gate into the forest of Blackmoor, and that Ryme was a postern gate to it. Mr. Coker calls it "Eatminster, or more truly Eastminster from its situation from some other church."

Three miles from hence northward is *Bradford Abbas*, a small village on the borders of Somersetshire, on the south bank of the River Ivel. It takes its principal name from the broad ford over the river, and its additional one from its ancient lords the Abbots of Sherborne.

Sherborne

Is pleasantly situated, partly on the side of a hill and partly in the fertile vale of Blackmoor. The parish is very large, being about three miles and a half in length, and two and a half in breadth. The soil in this parish is chiefly loamy sand, in some places stony, called here stone rush. The town was of great note and antiquity in the Saxon age, when it was called *Scireburn*; from the Saxon words scire, clear; and burn, a spring or fountain; a rivulet or brook of this description running by it, supposed to be a branch of the *Yeo* or *Yoo*.

In the Saxon times, Ina, King of the West Saxons, fixed an episcopal see here, A. D. 704. The celebrated Asser Menevensis, who wrote the life of Alfred, and assisted him in his literary pursuits, was a Bishop of Sherborne. In 1075 the see was finally removed to Old Sarum. At the dissolution, the revenues of Sherborne Abbey were rated at 612*l.* 14*s.* 7¾*d.*

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the manor of Sherborne, and all other estates in the hundreds of Sherborne and Yateminster, which until then belonged to the see of Sarum, were alienated by the then bishop; and were granted immediately in fee to the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh, and another person.

After Sir Walter Raleigh's attainder, the manor passed from his family to that of the ancestors of the present possessor, the Right Hon. Edward Digby, Lord Digby of Sherborne.

During the time the episcopal see was established at Sherborne the town was very flourishing; it afterwards became a very inconsiderable place. In Leland's time it revived again, being then "the most frequented town in the county, and its woollen manufactures turned to the best account." A silk manufactory, and the making of shirt buttons, haberdashery wares, and bone lace, constitute the chief business of the town at present. Sherborne has about 4,000 inhabitants.

In 1611 there was a great mortality at Sherborne, nearly 300 persons dying between June and the following September. In 1685 twelve persons were executed here for being concerned in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. In 1688 the Prince of Orange visited Sherborne, and was joined here by George Prince of Denmark, the Dukes of Ormond and Grafton, Lord Churchill, and other persons of quality, who deserted King James at Salisbury.

In several records relating to this town, mention is made of vineyards, which occur in Doomsday

Book only here and at Durweston. Vineyards in England, though now very rare, were formerly very common, as may be gathered from several which yet retain that name in divers parts of the kingdom, and from ancient records, which testify that great quantities of ground were allotted for that purpose to the abbeys, for their wine.

The rich and valuable possessions of the church of Sarum, in Sherborne and its environs, soon drew the attention of courtiers and favourites; and during the reigns of Henry VIII. Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth, the bishopric of Sarum suffered greatly. The rich manor of Sherborne, and many lands, &c. in the environs, were alienated from it. The see was twice vacant some years, during the latter reign, which intervals were certainly employed to find a fit person, who would comply with Sir Walter Raleigh's terms.

Queen Elizabeth seems to have obliged John Piers, bishop of Sarum, elected in 1578, to lease Sherborne, and other lands belonging to his see, to her for 99 years. She, the same year, by virtue of a long lease recited in his patent, grants all her right in the manors of Sherborne, Wotton Whitfield, Burton, Holnest, Yateminster, Candel, Bishop Castleton, Newland, the hundreds of Sherborne and Yateminster, the castle and park of Sherborne, the rectories and advowsons of the rectories, vicarages, and chantries, to Thomas White.

On the translation of Bishop Piers from Sarum to York, 1588, there was a vacancy in this see for three years, during which time the lands before mentioned remained in the crown, or its grantees. Bishop Coldwell succeeded 1591, who 34 Elizabeth, 1592, granted the manors mentioned in White's grant, (except the manors of Burton and Holnest, and the rectories and advowsons which are not mentioned) to the queen by lease for 99 years, reserving a yearly rent of 200l. 16s. 10d. to himself and his successors. She conveyed the premises to Sir Walter Raleigh.

On this bishop's death the see was again vacant two years. In 1598 Doctor Cotton was elected bishop, and he completed the total alienation of the estates in Sherborne, from the see of Sarum. They were immediately granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Walter Raleigh in fee. Upon the attainder of Sir Walter Raleigh, in the reign of James I. his manor and park of Sherborne, and other estates there, were granted to Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset. Soon after the earl forfeited these lands on his conviction for being accessary to the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury: and 14 March, 14 James I. all or most of the lands mentioned in the grants of the 6th, 8th, 11th, and 13th of James I. were granted for 10,000l. to Sir John Digby, and confirmed the 27th November, the same year. Carew, son of Sir Walter Raleigh, made several attempts to recover his paternal estate. His petition to the House of Commons contains some curious particulars relating to the before mentioned grants; he alleges that his father's lands and offices were seized on his condemnation; but it was found that his castle and lands in Sherborne, were entailed on his children, and that he could forfeit it only during his own life: that the king gave him all he had forfeited, but kept him prisoner in the tower: that seven years after his imprisonment he enjoyed Sherborne, till Sir Robert Carr became favourite, when the conveyance of Sherborne was questioned in the Exchequer Chamber, and for want of a single word, which yet was found in the paper book, and was only an oversight of the clerk, it was pronounced invalid, and Sherborne forfeited to the crown, and given to Sir Robert Carr; Lady Raleigh, and her children, in vain petitioning against it. Prince Henry desired Sherborne might be given him, pretending to like the strength and beauty of the place; but with an intention to give it back to Sir Walter: his request was granted, and Sir Robert Carr satisfied with 25,000l. but Prince Henry dying soon after, the king gave Sherborne again to Sir

Robert Carr, and on his condemnation to Sir John Digby. Mr. Raleigh, after his father's death, spent five years at Oxford, after which he made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain some redress. He afterwards travelled abroad till the death of King James I. On his return he petitioned the Parliament to be restored in blood, to enable him to inherit his father's lands. The petition having been twice read in the House of Lords, King Charles sent for Mr. Raleigh, and told him he had, when Prince, promised the Earl of Bristol to secure his title to Sherborne against the heirs of Sir Walter Raleigh, for which he had 10,000l. and was obliged to make good that promise now he was king; and that unless he would quit his right and title to Sherborne he would not pass his bill of restoration. At length being sensible of the impossibility of contesting with the king's power, and that not being restored in blood, he could not possess or enjoy any lands, he submitted to the King's will. On this an act passed for his restoration, and together with it a settlement of Sherborne on the Earl of Bristol; and for some recompence 400l. per annum pension during his life, after his mother's death, which was paid to her in lieu of her jointure.

After the alienation from the see of Sarum, a chief rent of 260l. per annum had been paid to the see of Sarum. In 1645 it was sequestered with the rest of Lord Digby's estate. In 1648 it was sold to Thomas Brown, Esq. for 2,730l.; but after the Restoration it reverted again to that see.

The manor now consists of 7000 acres, and includes all the other manors and tithings in the town. Lord Digby holds two court-leets in the Town-hall, at Lady Day and Michaelmas.

The Church of Sherborne is situated near the west part of the town, and was anciently the cathedral of the Bishops of Sherborne. On the removal of that see it became the conventual, and on the dissolution, the parochial church. It is a venerable regular structure, the largest and best in the county,

and adorned with excellent workmanship within and without, in the improved gothic style, which took place under Henry the Sixth, the time of its rebuilding. It is built in the form of a cross, of good freestone, found near the town, and was first erected by Bishop Adhelm, and dedicated to All Saints. According to Dean Chandler's register, it was the mother church to many chapels of ease in this neighbourhood dependant upon it, the great tithes whereof belonged to the prebend or rectory here. Anciently all or many churches near great monasteries were only chapels of ease to the conventual church, in which, or the cemetery belonging to it, they buried; but all other church rites were performed in the respective chapels. This was the case of several churches in this neighbourhood: viz. North-Watton, Over-Compton, Nether-Compton, Folke, Haydon, Bere-Hacket, Pymford, Obourne, Candle Marsh, Burton, Polnest, Lellington, Thornford, all the chapels in this town, and perhaps very anciently Yateminster.

The dimensions of the present fabric are as follows: the whole length 207 feet; breadth 102; height 100; length of the nave 182 feet by 32, and height 109 feet. The north and south aisles 198 feet by 15, and 24 feet three inches high each. The transept 202 feet long, and 102 feet wide. The tower 154 feet high; the length and breadth 30 feet by 32. The height of the body, from the paving to the vaulting, 109 feet. The whole is supported by eight arches, over which are as many large windows on each side.

In the chancel is an handsome altar-piece of Norway oak; 32 feet broad, and of a proportionable height. It composes a pediment, supported by four fluted pillars of the Corinthian order, and was the gift of the late William, Lord Digby. Behind the altar is a vacant space, or passage, fifteen feet broad, which was probably an entrance into a part of a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin; which

in most cathedral and conventual churches, stood at the east end of those fabrics. Tradition says, there was a chapel where the school now stands. In the chancel still remain some of the monk's stalls, as also, at the west end of the church. The north and south aisles are vaulted with stone. The roof of the nave is for the most part vaulted with stone, and enriched with mouldings and other ornaments.

The tower stands near the middle of the church, supported by four arches, and contains six large bells besides the fire-bell, and the little saints' bell. The tenor, or sixth and largest, is said to weigh 60,000lb. and to have been brought from Tournay, and given by Cardinal Wolsey, who was once Rector of Lymington in this neighbourhood. It was new cast in 1670, and on it is this inscription:

"By Wolsey's gift I measure time for all,
To mirth, to grief, to church, I serve to call."

In the 14th year of the reign of Henry VI. 1436, this church was almost entirely destroyed by fire; but was rebuilt in the course of the three following reigns. By an ordination made between the Abbot and Convent of Sherborne, and the parishioners, it appears that the monks complained that, though there had been in the body of the church of the monastery, from its foundation, a baptismal font, in which the infants of Sherborne parish were commonly baptized, yet Richard Fowle, Thomas Draper, John Toker, Walter Paskely, John Ashly, and other their confederates, erected another new font in the lower part of the church, where the inhabitants used to hear divine service, on pretence of the bells ringing to matins, and of the strait entrance of the door in the wall, between the place of the parishioners and the body of the church. At the procession to the font at Easter and Pentecost, a contention arose between the abbot and monks and the townsmen. The monks desiring that the font might be removed to the ancient place, no one opposed it, and proclamation being made for that

purpose, the bishop ordered the bell to be rung to matins after the sixth hour, according to the abbey clock, the font to be replaced in the ancient place, the door and entrance for the procession of the parishioners to the font to be enlarged, a partition to be made in the nave near the choir, that there might be a distinct separation between the monks and parishioners. The putting this order in execution was probably the cause of the riot, that ended in the burning of the church, of which Leland gives us the following account: "The body of the abbay church dedicated to our Lady served untill a hundrith yeres sins or more for the chife paroche chirch of the town. This was the cause of the abolition of the paroche chirch there: the monks and the townsmen felle at variance, by cause the townsmen tooke privelege to use the sacrament of baptisme in the chapel of Al-Halowes. Whereupon one Walter Gallor, a stout butcher, dwelling yn Sherborne defaced clene the font stone, and after the variaunce growing to a plain seditione, and the townsmen, by the means of an Earl of Huntingdowne, lying in these quarters and taking the townsmens part, and the bishop of Sanesbyri the monkes part, a prest of Al-Halowes shot a shaft with fire into the top of that part of St. Marye Chirch that divided the est part the monkes used, from that the townsmen used, and this partition chancing at that time to be thacked yn, the rofe was sitte a fire, and consequently all the hole chirch, the lede and belles melting, was defac'd. Then Bradeford, Abbat of Shirborne, persecuted this injurie, and the townsmen were forcied to contribute to the reedyfying of this chirch. But after this tyme Al-hallowes chirch, and not Saint Maries was usid for the paroche chirch. Al the est part of St. Mary chirch was reedyfyed in Abate Bradeford's time saving a chapel of our Lady, an old peace of work that the fier came not to, by reason that it was an older building. Peter Ramsunne, next abate saving one, to Bradeford, buildid *à fundamentis* al the west

part of St. Mary chirch, as appears by his name and rebus in several places. Ramsunne abbate, sette a chapel, caulled our Lady of Bow, hard to the south of the Old Lady chapel." In a note at the beginning of his Itinerary, he says; "John, Samme (f. Saunders) abbate, did build the est part of the abbaye chirch, and Peter Ramessun, abbatt there buildid the west part of the same chirch not many years syns."

Among the many curious and ancient monuments in this church, there is one very superb, in the south transept, erected at the expence of 1,500l. to the memory of John, Earl of Bristol, who died in 1698. It is composed of various kinds of marble, the work of J. Nost. On it is the statue of the Earl standing in his parliamentary robes, holding a coronet in his right hand. On his left stands his first lady Alice, daughter and heir to Robert Bourne, of Black Hall in the county of Essex, Esq, holding in her left hand a burning lamp; on his right hand his second lady, daughter and coheir of Sir Hugh Wyndam, of Silton, Knt, holding in her right hand a flaming heart. On the pedestals of these statues are their names, and the dates of their births and burials; at the sides two weeping Cupids. A vein in the marble of the left leg, which is naked, represents the mortification near his knee which occasioned the Earl's death. Over the whole is a noble semicircular pediment, supported by two fluted columns of the Corinthian order, on which are two lions, and between them the arms of Digby, Az. a fleur de lys, A. crest, an ostrich, A. holding a horse-shoe O. supporters two man-tygers, sab. collar'd with an Earl's coronet O. On one side A. three chevanels Sa. between three lions passant of the second, *Bourne* on the other side Az. three lions heads, erased O. Wyndham. Underneath is a pedestal with proper compartments, containing this inscription, composed by Dr. Hough, Bishop of Worcester.

"John Lord Digby, Baron Digby, of Sherborne, and Earl of Bristol, titles to which the merit of his grand-father first gave lustre, and which he himself laid down unsullied. He was naturally inclined to avoid the hurry of a public life, yet careful to keep up the port of his quality; was willing to be at ease but scorned obscurity; and therefore never made his retirement a pretence to draw himself within a narrower compass, or to shun such expence as charity, hospitality, and his honour, called for. His religion was that which by law is established, and the conduct of his life shewed the power of it in his heart. His distinction from others never made him forget himself or them. He was kind and obliging to his neighbours, generous and condescending to his inferiors, and just to all mankind. Nor had the temptations of honour and pleasure in this world strength enough to withdraw his eyes from that great object of his hope which we reasonably assure ourselves he now enjoys.

Near the former, on a black marble tablet, fixed in the wall under the great south window, is this inscription, by Mr. Pope:

To the Memory of ROBERT, second son,
and MARY, eldest daughter of
WILLIAM LORD DIGBY.

"Go, fair example of untainted youth,
Of modest reason, and pacific truth,
Go, just of worth, in ev'ry thought sincere,
Who knew no wish but what the world might hear;
Of gentlest manners, unaffected mind,
Lover of peace, and friend to human kind;
Compos'd in sufferings, and in joys sedate;
Good without noise, without pretensions great;
Go, live, for Heaven's eternal year is thine,
Go, and exalt thy mortal to divine.

And thou, too close attendant on his doom,
Blest maid! hast hasten'd to the silent tomb;
Steer'd the same source to the same quiet shore;
Nor parted long, and now to part no more.

Yet take these tears, mortality's relief,
And till we share your joys, forgive our grief;
The little rites, a stone and verse, receive;
'Tis all a father, all a friend, can give."

At the Reformation this church was purchased, as Mr. Coker tells us, by the townsmen; for effecting of which they pulled down two other churches. This owed its preservation to its being but lately finished. "The feast of the Annunciation of our Lady being the Shere Thursday in Cena Dne, A. D. 1540 31. H. VIII. the monks being expelled, and the house suppressed by the king's auctoritie, Master John Horsey, Kt. counsellor to the said Kings grace, bought the said suppressed town to himself and his heirs in fee for ever, and then the said Mr. Horsey, kt. sold the said church, and the ground to the vicar and parish of Sherbon for 100 marks, to them and their successors for ever, and the same vicar and parish took possession of the same on the day and year abovesaid.

"P. me, Johem Chesmyll, Vicar."

The *Castle of Sherborne* stood on an hill in the eastern part of Castleton, to which it gives name. Few castles in these parts were stronger or better situated. It commanded all the adjacent vale, on the north and west, and the whole ridge of hills on the south. It was fenced for the most part with a large moor, which being not long since drained is converted into a rich meadow and fish-ponds. It was built in form of an octagon, moted round, and over the mote were several draw-bridges, and on the north a subteraneous passage into the adjacent vale. Leland says, "The castle of Sherbourne is in the east end of the town, upon a rocky hillet. It has, by west north-west, and by est south-est, morisch ground. Roger le Poure, Bishop of Saresbyri, in Henry the first's time, builded this castle, and cast a great dyke without it, and made a false mine without the dyke. There be four great towers in the castle-wall, wheicof one is the gate-house.

Every of them hath three lodgyngs yn hight. The great lodgyng is in the middle of the castle-court, very strong and full of vaulters. There be few peaces of worke in England, of the antiquity of this, that standeth so whole and well couched. One Bishop Langton made of late tyme, a new peace of worke, and lodgings of stone at the west end of the haul: other memorable peaces of work was none set up since the first building. There is a chapel in a little close without the castle by est. There lyeth at the end of the castle a mote, that some tyme hath been much larger than it is now, as choked up with flagges and wedes. There cummeth a river unto the mere [that rises at Horethorn."]

This was the ancient Palace of the Bishops of Sherborne, and on the removal of the see was given by William the Conqueror to Osmund, Bishop of Sarum and Earl of Dorset, who annexed it to that see.

A building, called the New Inn at Sherborne, is of very considerable antiquity. It formerly belonged to the Durnford family, but was lately inhabited by Mr. Beale, master of the Bristol and Weymouth Waggons. There are various traditions and conjectures concerning the purposes of this building. It has been supposed to have been a court-house and prison belonging to the forest of Blakemore; by others the Treasury of the Abbey; but the internal appearance gives it the character of an Hospital or religious house. The parapet wall on the outside towards the street is ornamented with quatrefoils, without shields, similar to those round the leads on the east end of Sherborne Church. Under a bay window is the figure of an angel, holding a shield charged with three spears.

Sherborne Castle being reduced under Cromwell in August, 1645, after a siege of sixteen days on the 16th of August, the soldiers kept a great market with their booty: on the 21st the Parliament ordered the castle to be demolished, which work was completed in October following. The town of Sherborne also suffered during this siege very severely.

A little to the north of the ruins of the old castle is *Sherborne Lodge*, the seat of the Right Honourable Henry Lord Digby. Out of the ruins were built Castleton Church, part of the present seat, or lodge, (the middle part being built by Sir Walter Raleigh) the stable, and part of the garden walls. On the north side of the house is a noble piece of water, which has all the appearance of a fine navigable river, and has indeed a small rivulet running through it, over which is a very handsome bridge. The house is built in the form of the letter H, and contains many capital paintings, by the first masters. The late Lord Orford very justly observes, that "the ruins of the Castle, Sir Walter Raleigh's grove, the house built by him, the grove planted by Mr. Pope, and the noble lake, all concur to make this seat one of the most venerable and beautiful in England." It is surrounded by a large Park, which Leland tells us, was, in his time, enclosed with a stone wall. The park contains 340 acres, and is generally stocked with not less than 400 head of deer.

About seven miles from Sherborne is

STALBRIDGE,

A small market-town, upon the banks of the River Stour. This place anciently belonged to the abbey of Sherborne.

The whole of this parish has a rocky substratum, which supplies the surrounding country with stone for building. In this town there is a noted stocking manufactory, and another for spinning silk, which employs about one hundred and fifty women and children. The population appears to amount to 1250 persons. In the middle of the town there is a cross, which "including the base, is thirty feet high. At the top is a square block, with four niches: those on the east and west fronts have the Crucifixion, with the Virgin, and St. John. On this block stood a cross; and from the top of the free-stone of the pyramid to the hole in which this cross was fixed,

is ten feet. At the bottom of this block are several coats of arms, one of them seems a chevron or foss between three roses or escallops. The pyramid itself is twelve feet high, and all the angles are fluted. On one side of it is a defaced figure of our Saviour, with the lamb at his feet. The four sides of the base are adorned with reliefs, one of which seems to represent the resurrection of Christ; who holds a cross in his hand. The whole stands on three octagon flights of steps, each diminishing in the ascent."

Near Stalbridge is Stalbridge House, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesea, who has a large estate here, and another at Hanley, near Woodgates Inn.

About four miles south of Stalbridge, is *Sturminster Newton Castle*, or, as it is more usually called, Sturminster Newton, a small market-town, formed of two townships on each side of the river Stour, communicating with each other by a causeway and bridge of six arches, and form one manor. There are at this place the remains of an ancient castle, supposed to be Roman, the ruins of which are in the form of the letter D. They stand on a high hill, surrounded by a high vallum and deep ditch. In the centre is an artificial mount or keep. Sturminster, according to the late returns, appears to contain 116 houses, and 500 inhabitants.

At Sturminster there is a manufactory of a sort of flannel called swanskin, a coarse white woollen cloth, used for soldiers' clothing, and made from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per yard. About 1200 people are employed in this manufactory, and about 5,000 pieces, yard wide, are annually made.

In this neighbourhood, upon *Hambledon Hill*, in the parishes of Child Ockford, hroton, and Hanford, are considerable remains of an ancient Fortification, thus described by Mr. Hutchins:

"Before coming to the principal front of this work, there are two or three low ramparts, or trenches, that cross the narrowest part of the hill;

the west end of which is broad and level, but then grows narrower, and ends in a point that turns away north-west: here the ground is rugged and uneven.

It is most accessible on the east, at which entrance are four or five ramparts and trenches; but the rest of the work has generally but two. Below the outer foss, on the west, is a small parapet, fronting the River Stour, that runs at the foot of the hill. It extends, in length, east and west, about three quarters of a mile; its breadth is inconsiderable, and unequal, and its form very irregular, as is the shape of the hill."

A deep and narrow valley divides this eminence from another on the south, called *Hod Hill*, upon the summit of which is an old Fortification, supposed by Mr. Hutchins to have been the antagonist Camp to that on Hambledon Hill.

We shall make an excursion from hence, in order to visit *Abbey Milton*, the elegant seat of George Damer, Earl of Dorchester. The site of the house was once that of an abbey (the conventual church of which still remains, and is a very beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture). It is placed at the junction of three vallies, the acclivities rising from which are well covered with wood, and have a most romantic embellished effect. The approach is along the side of a broad sheet of water, collected from distant sources, that, unfortunately, are too scanty in their supplies to maintain a sufficient depth and body, though neither pains nor expence have been spared in endeavouring to attain so desirable an object, nor are exertions yet discontinued. The house adjoins to the north-west part of the church, and was built by the present possessor, Sir William Chambers being the architect. A collegiate plan was adopted (with great propriety) in the distribution of its several parts, which form a quadrangle, and, so far as an air of lightness is preserved, are made to correspond with the style of the church. It has no pretensions, however, to be considered as an

imitation of Gothic; at least the imitation is a very imperfect and incorrect one. The open parapet surrounding the church, was too prominent an appendage not to be preserved in an adjoining edifice; and the Gothic mouldings and pinnacles have been aimed at, but they are in a taste not authorized by any original specimen whatever. The two turrets over the gate are as much in an *Indian* or *Chinese* style, as in a Gothic. The apartments are numerous and elegant, and the *Monk's* Hall, as it is called, a venerable old room, once the refectory of the abbey, is still preserved. The latter has a fine oak roof, gilded and painted, and a richly carved screen, in a style correspondent to it, on which there appears the date of 1498; this may be seen also on the cornice surrounding the hall, which is ornamented with various escutcheons and devices. The windows are square, but composed of several compartments, with obtuse Gothic tops, and the glass is stained with coats of arms.

Among the pictures shewn in this house, are several by the first masters. A Monk's head, by Raphael, is inimitable. The same subject by Titian; a Sea-piece, by Claude, and the Feeding of the Israelites, by Bassan, are most divinely touched.

We shall now proceed to a description of the Church, which is in a most simple, chaste, and elegant style of Gothic. The period of its erection is not to be ascertained with exactness; but the foundation of it was laid, most probably, in the reign of Edward II. Hutchins imagines the abbey to have been founded soon after the battle of Brunanburgh, or about the year 938, at which time Athelstan reigned. The monkish historians ascribe the pious act of this monarch to remorse, for having occasioned the death of his brother Edwin; but the story of the latter being exposed in an open boat to the mercy of a tempestuous ocean, is too absurd to deserve any credit; and many a one similar to it was often invented to answer the sinister purposes of the clergy

of those times. That Athelstan was the founder, however, cannot well be doubted. Two very ancient pictures remain in the choir; one represents this king presenting the model of a church to a monk, who kneels before him, with the following inscription in Saxon characters; viz. *Rex Athelstan huj. loci. f.* and the other his queen, with a hawk in her hand, devouring some small bird. The ancient edifice, it appears, was accidentally burnt down in the third year of Edward II.'s reign, and a patent granted for the construction of a new one, about twelve years afterwards. The form of the present church is that of a Roman T. the western part having been taken away, perhaps, at the time of the Dissolution, in order to turn the materials to some profit. At the east end is a beautiful Gothic screen, which, before the repairs made a few years ago, was covered up with mortar, and wholly obscured. In removing the latter, the workmen damaged a part of the sculpture, which was supplied, however, in plaister, by Mr. Wyatt, whose genius and taste, in the renovation of Gothic ornaments and architecture, are conspicuous in every instance. The niches are extremely elegant, and very similar to those brought to light by the same architect in New College, Oxford. An inscription signifies the date of it to be the year 1492. From the altar the nave shews a great strength and beauty of feature, the roof being simple and elegant, and the arches which support the tower bold and finely turned. The latter is of a square form, and massy; it once contained several bells. In the south transept stands a finely-executed monument to the memory of Lady Milton, by Carini. The window above it is of a noble size, and ornamented, as well as those of the aisles, with a profusion of tracery. In this beautiful fabric service is not now regularly performed, as the family usually attend the parish church, built by the Earl of Dorchester, who substituted the latter, by the authority of an act of parliament, for the conventual one.

The ancient possessors of the abbey lands, &c. were the Tregonwells, to whom they were given soon after the dissolution, in consideration of the payment of 1000l. and the resignation of a pension of 40l. per annum by John Tregonwell, Esq. From the Tregonwells the manor came to the Beancks family, by whom it was sold to the noble earl (at that time Joseph Damer, Esq.)

Towards Blandford is seen the *new* village of *Milton*. The latter had once a decent market, which being an impediment to his lordship's plans for the extension and improvement of his grounds, it was removed from the bottom, where a piece of water has been formed, to a deep nook branching out southward from the valley. It is to be regretted that the inhabitants have now lost their market, and the number of houses is reduced to about 30, which are merely thatched cottages. From the hill above these rustic habitations, the church tower beyond, and the wood hanging from the brows of the neighbouring heights, form a singularly romantic scene. It must be confessed too, that the removal of the town rendered the effect of the valley more highly romantic than ever, and restored it to that seclusion and solitude which recommended it to its original tenants

The hill above-mentioned commands an extensive prospect, particularly to the south-east, and seems to be one of the most elevated spots in the county.

About four miles north-west of Milton, on the point of *Bullbarrow*, a high hill that overlooks great part of the Vale of Blackmoor, and affords a very extensive prospect, is a small ancient circular fortification, which, by the many Roman coins turned up by the plough, in the arable fields near it, seems to be Roman: it stands partly in the parish of Stoke Wake, and part in the hamlet of Ansty, in Hilton, and has two ramparts and ditches. There are two entrances on the west and east; the latter is the principal one, where two or three ramparts lap over

one another. In the parsonage-house of East Stour, (5 miles from Shaftesbury, and standing close to the road,) Henry Fielding resided when he wrote Tom Jones.

Returning to Sturminster Newton we proceed on a journey from thence to

Shaftesbury.

This ancient town has received a variety of names from our historians and records. In British it is called *Caer Palladow* and *Caer Septon.* In Saxon *Septerbyres.* By Bede, Mathew of Westminster, and Simeon Dunmensis, *Schaftesbury.* By Brompton, *Schaftebury.* In Doomsday Book *Sceptesberri.* By Leland *Sophonia* and *urbs Sophoniousis.* The modern name, *Shaston,* is an abbreviation of *Shaftesbury.* The supposed British names of *Caer Palladur* or *Palladow* seem to be mere invention, alluding to a Temple of Pallas which some have placed here, though this deity was unknown to the ancient Britons.

Fabulous history attributes a very high antiquity to this town, some will have Rhudubrasius, or Cicuber, King of the Britons, who flourished 940 years before Christ, to have built Palladur, or Caer Septon, wherein he founded three temples, and placed in them flamens, and that where the abbey was afterwards built, stood in Pagan times a temple of Pallas. Holingshead says it was built by Lud, or Ludhurdibras, son of Leil, eighth King of the Britons, who began to reign A. M. 3046, and reigned 29 years. Brompton says it was built by Cassebelan, a British King, *Magnæ sinositatus erat civitatis.*

It is celebrated by our historians for the prophecy of one Aquila concerning the change in the British government. Some think this was an eagle, called in Latin *aquila;* others that it was a man of that name who foretold that the government of Britain, after having been in the Saxon and Norman hands, should return at length to the ancient Britons.

In a note to some verses in Drayton's Poly-Albion, where this town is noticed, it is said that at the

building of Caer Septon an eagle, or rather one named Aquila, prophesied of the recovery of the isle by the Britons, bringing with them the bones of Cadwallader from Rome, where he died.

These fabulous accounts may be a presumption of high antiquity, but carry no certainty or information about them.

Camden says, "It was undoubtedly built by Alfred; for Malmsbury, the historian, has told us that there was an ancient stone in his time, removed out of the ruins of the walls into the Chapter-house of the nuns, which had this inscription—

"Anno Dominicæ Incarnationis Ælfredus Rex, fecit hanc urbem DCCCLXXX Regni sui VIII."

"King Alfred built this city in the year of our Lord 880, and the 8th year of his reign.

Mr. Camden says, "He was more willing to insert this inscription for clearing the truth of the matter, because in all the copies he had seen it is wanting, except one belonging to Lord Burleigh, the then Lord High Treasurer of England."

Leland says, "There was an inscription on the right-hand entering the Chapter-house, set up by King Alfred, in knowledge that he repaired Shaftsbury destroyed by the Danes." But he immediately adds, "that the inscription of the remains of which William of Malmsbury speaketh, stode in the waule of St. Mary's Chapel, at the town's end, which chapel is now pulled down." He also says, "this was translated thither from the ruins of a very ancient wall."

This town is situated in the northern extremity of the county on the borders of Wiltshire, 16 miles north-east from Sherborne, and 10 north from Blandford Forum. It stands on a very high hill, difficult of access, except on the east. On the south and west you have a very extensive prospect over the counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Wilts. When viewed from the south it appears in form of a bow; St. James's parish lying in a vale on the south side of

the hill. The limits of the town only extend to its streets and lanes; but some part of the parish of St. James extends into the adjacent country.

The air is pure and healthy, but the high situation renders it cold and bleak. The buildings are chiefly of stone dug out of the hill. There are, according to the returns under the Population Act, 515 houses and 2159 inhabitants. The soil about the town is sandy, but fertile. On the north, south, and west is the Vale of Blackmoor, a deep country full of pasture, yielding cattle and wood, and on the east, north-east, and south, a high champaign country abounding with sheep and corn.

There were formerly 12 churches in Shaftesbury, viz.

1. The Conventual Church of St. Mary and St. Edward.
2. St. Peter.
3. St. Trinity.
4. St. Laurence.
5. St. Martin.
6. St. Andrew.

} Now united to St. Peter.

7. St. Rombold's a Carm.
8. St. James.
9. All Saints.
10. St. Edward.
11. St. John.
12. St. Mary.

} Now united to St. James.

Leland mentions but four parish churches, possibly because two of them are not entirely in the borough. At present they are in fact reduced to three, which being small, and the towers low, are no great ornaments to the town at a distance.

The trade of Shaftesbury is very inconsiderable, the principal manufactory is the making all kinds of shirt buttons, in which upwards of 4,000 women and children are employed in and about the town. The most inferior sort of which are made at the low price of five pence per gross of twelve dozen, the labourer finding the thread.

On the south side of the town, near which for-

merly stood the abbey and the church, was a park belonging to the abbey, which still retains the name of *Park-Hill.* At the east end yet remains part of the wall that inclosed it, which, next the borough, is very strong and high, and embattled and supported by very large bustresses, but lower down, near the Parish of St. James, little more than the ruins of it are to be seen.

In the year 1746, on sinking a saw-pit in a garden between the east end of Park-hill and the passage that leads to the Abbey Green, about four feet deep, was found with some human bones, a gold ring weighing three quarters of an ounce, without any inscription or figure. In 1761 was dug up, on the same hill a stone about two feet square, on which were the arms of the abbey, a cross patonce between four martlets, very finely cut.

To pass over the fabulous accounts in the British age which have been before mentioned, we find no mention of this town under the Romans, nor are there any marks or traces of those people to be found here. It is certain that in the Saxon age it became a place of great note on account of its monastery, and the translation of the body of King Edward hither. King Athelstan fixed here two mints, which in the time of Edward the Confessor were increased to three. In this town King Canutus ended his days, in 1035, and was buried in the old Monastery.

In 1278 and 1294, John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, excommunicated Sir Osbert Gifford, Knt. for stealing two nuns out of the nunnery at Wilton, and absolved him on these conditions: that he should never come into a nunnery or into the company of nuns; that he should for three sundays together be whipped in his parish church of Wilton, and as many times in the market and church of Shaftesbury; and fast a certain number of months, and not wear a shirt for three years; and not take upon him the habit or title of a knight; but wear

apparel of a russet colour till he had served three years in the Holy Land.

In Doomesday Book we have this account of the town:

"In Borgo Sceptesberie, tem. Reg. Edw. were 104 houses in the king's demesne. This vell gelded for twenty hides, viz. two marks of silver to the king's huscarles. Here were three minters, each of which paid one mark of silver and 20s. when money was coined. Here are now 66 houses, 38 having been destroyed from the time of Hugh the Sheriff to the present. In that part of the town belonging to the Abbess T. R. E. were 158 houses, now but 111, 47 being destroyed. She had here 157 burgesses, 20 empty dwelling houses, and one garden, val. 65s."

Shaftesbury is a very ancient borough, being so styled in Doomsday book. It was formerly incorporated by prescription, and had a mayor and several burgesses. Queen Elizabeth granted the first charter, constituting a mayor, a recorder, 12 aldermen, a bailiff, and a common council. Another was granted by James I. and a third was obtained from Charles II. in the 17th year of his reign, differing very little from that of James I. whereby a mayor was appointed to be chosen annually, the Monday before, and sworn the Friday after Michaelmas, 12 capital burgesses to hold quamdiu se bene gesserint, a recorder and town clerk, to hold durante placito of the mayor, and capital burgess, either of whom may execute his office by a deputy.

This town sends two members to parliament, the first return appears to have been made on the 25th of Edward I. The right of election is in the mayor and burgesses, and the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The number of voters amounts to 300.

This borough has been remarkable for its venality, of which the following extraordinary instance is mentioned in Mr. Hutchins's History of Dorset:

"Sir Thomas Rumbold and Sir Francis Sykes

two nabobs, were returned to represent this borough. A petition was presented by Hans Wintrop Mortimer, Esq. complaining that the two sitting members, by themselves and their agents, had been guilty of many gross and notorious acts of bribery and corruption. It appeared in evidence, on the trial of this petition, that money to the amount of several thousand pounds had been given among the voters in sums of twenty guineas a man; and that persons who were intrusted with the disbursement of this money, and who were chiefly the magistrates of the town, devised very singular and absurd contrivances to conceal through what channel it was conveyed to the electors. A person concealed under a ludicrous and fantastical disguise, and called by the name of *Punch*, was placed in a small apartment, and through a hole in the door delivered out to the voters parcels containing twenty guineas each: after which they were conducted to another apartment in the same house, where they found a second person, called *Punch's Secretary*, who required them to sign notes for the value received: these notes were made payable to another imaginary character, to whom was given the name of *Glenbucket*. Two of the witnesses swore they had seen Punch through the hole in the door, and that they knew him to be Mr. Mathews, an alderman of the town."

The monastery at this place was a nunnery of the Benedictine order, at that time the only one in the church of Rome, and the original of all the rest.—Leland says it was founded by King Ethelbald, and that his brothers Ethelbert, Ethelred, and Alfred, were also considered as founders. Elsewhere he gives this honour entirely to Alfred. Asser Menevensis, who lived about this time, says that Alfred founded by the east gate of Sceftasburg a monastery for nuns, wherein he placed as abbess his own daughter Æthelgeof. Indeed it appears certain that King Alfred was, if not the first, the principal founder, his charter, in Saxon and Latin, is still ex-

tant in the British Museum, MS. Harl. 61, and is, called Testamentum R. Alfredi. The following is, a translation:

"I King Alured, to the honour of God and the holy Virgin, and all the Saints, do give and grant for the health of my soul, to the church of Schaftesbury 100 hides of land, viz. in Dunhived and Compton 40 hides, in Henly and Gissig 20, in Tarrent 10, In Irverne 15, and in Tuntemelle 15, with the men and other appurtenances as they now are, and my daughter Ayleva with the same, she being in an ill state of health, and a nun of the same church. Witness, &c. Whosoever shall alienate these things may he be for ever accursed of God and the holy Virgin Mary, and all the Saints. Amen."

It was first dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, but it lost that name, at least for several ages, upon the translation hither of the body of St. Edward the Martyr, who was murdered at Corfe Castle, 18th March, 978, and first clandestinely buried at Wareham, whence, according to Leland, he was next year, or, as others on better grounds say, three years afterwards, removed to this abbey, by Elpher Duke of Mercia, or St. Dunstan. A. D. 980.

Miracles were soon invented to support the sanctity of his remains; for besides those which are pretended to have been wrought after his first interment, and on his removal to Wareham and hither, he had not lain long before a matron, in the most remote part of England, being lame, the king appeared to her in the night, and ordered her to repair to Shaston to his tomb, and she should be cured, which was accordingly done.

The body was first interred on the north side of the principal altar. In 1101 his tomb was sensibly elevated from the earth, and shewed he was willing to be removed from that place. He appeared in a vision to a holy man, and ordered him to go to the Abbess of Shaston and tell her he would lie in that place no longer, and that she should relate this to

his brother Ethelred. This was done, and the king expressed a great desire to be present at his translation, but being hindered by the wars, he ordered the Bishop of Sherborne, and a prelate, named Elfsinus, and others, to deposit the body in a fit place, after taking it out of the earth. On opening the tomb they perceived a fragrant odour, and taking the reliques out of the tomb, deposited them in a place prepared for them in the Sanctum Sanctorum with the relics of other saints. The body was taken up twenty-one years after it was first entombed.

Of the Abbey or Conventual Church there now remains not the least vestige; but it seems to have stood parallel with the Holy Trinity church-yard, which anciently belonged to it, at the east end of the Abbey, on Park Hill, as appears by bones and coffins found there. It was the glory and ornament of the town, the mother church, and almost the only place of sepulture; there being but one ancient inscription in any of the present churches, which is in St. Peter's, and seems to have been removed hence. It must have been a magnificent building, if we may judge from the traditions the townsmen retain of its largeness and height.

Of the Abbey-House little now remains, except part of an ancient house, south of Trinity Church, in which appear two or three very large arches walled up.

Though no mention is made of a castle at Shaftesbury, yet there seems to have been one on Castle Green, a little west of St. Mary's, by some called Boultsbury, where the inhabitants have a tradition the old town or city stood. On one side it joins to the town on the east; but on the west it terminates in a deep precipice. On the very brow of the hill to the west is a small mount, surrounded on the part that joins the town by a shallow trench, the area of which is about two acres. It might have been a Roman Castrum Exploratorium, there being a very extensive prospect thence of the Vale of Blackmoor and the country adjacent.

The situation of Shaston or Shaftesbury is very singular. The prospect from it is very extensive and beautiful, reaching over great part of Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, and Somersetshire. From Castle green, an eminence to the west of the town, "a vast landscape appears: in front an eminence called Pencliffe Hill, rises with a beautiful wooded summit, bounding the fertile vale of Blackmoor, through which a white road, sometimes losing itself among woodlands, and sometimes traversing verdant pastures, winds westward into the distance. On the left, a fine undulating ridge shelters the vale, while the hills of Mere, in Wiltshire, with Alfred's Tower at the extremity, the Tor of Glastonbury, and the lofty heights of Quantock in Somersetshire, range themselves in the remaining part of the horizon."

The town being destitute of springs on account of its elevation, except two wells at the foot of the hills in the parish of St. James, some years ago engines were erected at the foot of the Castle Hill: but these works, though they raised the water three hundred feet high, fell into neglect, and many of the poor again gained a livelihood by bringing water from a distance, either on their heads or on horses backs from the wells at Gillingham, about a quarter of a mile distant. In consequence of this supply being derived from a different parish, an ancient agreement dated 1662, between the lord of the manor of Gillingham, and the mayor and Burgesses of Shaftesbury, is annually observed on the Monday before Holy Thursday, when a prize besom, or *bysant*, as it is called, is dressed up: its form resembles that of a May garland, adorned with gold and peacock's feathers. This is carried to *Enmore Green*, in the hamlet of Motcombe, as an acknowledgement for the water; and along with it a raw calf's head, a pair of gloves, a gallon of beer, and two twopenny loaves of wheaten bread, which are delivered to the Steward of the Lord of the manor. Latterly two wells have been dug; one of them is an hundred and twenty-

six feet deep, and afford plenty of good water. They are let for about 10l. a year each, and the water is retailed at about three half-pence or two-pence a horse load, and a farthing or a halfpenny a pailful.

Shaftesbury, like most of the towns in Dorsetshire, wears much of the appearance of decay; as the trade carried on is very inconsiderable. It partakes with several other of the towns of the shirt button manufactory. Great improvements were made in 1817 at Shaftesbury, by lowering the very steep hill, and widening the road which led up it on the north west side.

The Rev. James Granger, author of the celebrated "*Biographical History of England*," was a native of this town; he died in the year 1776.

Four miles from Shaftesbury is

Gillingham.

On the River Stour; one of the largest parishes in the county, occupying its northern extremity, and including an area of 64,000 acres, chiefly pasture land. In this parish there was formerly a Palace of the ancient Saxon and Norman Kings; in which Henry I. resided, and which was repaired by King John, at the expence of the county. Near Gillingham there was formerly a very large forest, which, in Leland's time, was "four miles in length, and, a mile or thereabout in breadth." There was also another called *Blackmoor* or *White-hart* Forest, which anciently extended from Shaftesbury to Yeovill. "According to tradition," says Camden, "Henry I. came to hunt here, and having run down several deer, saved the life of a most beautiful stag; which T. de la Lynde, a nobleman in these parts, with his companions, afterwards took and killed. But they soon found how dangerous it is to provoke a lion: for the king being exceedingly offended, imposed a heavy fine on them; and the lands which they held remain to this day charged with an annual fine to the treasury, called white hart silver.

Four miles south of Gillingham is

Marnhutt,

The paternal estate of the Hussey family. This is a very large parish, situated on the south bank of the Stour, about five miles south-west from Shaftesbury. The land of this lordship, in Mr. Hutchin's time, was estimated to be worth 4,000l. per annum. It is all enclosed: the soil is very good, chiefly clay; but near the church stony. Leland gives this account of it: "Marnelle, on the left rype of Stour, is a good uplandish towne, and the lordship belonged to Glessonbyri."

Journey from Shaftesbury to Poole, through Blandford and Wimborne Minster.

Having already described the town of Blandford and the adjacent country, we shall proceed t wards Wimborne Minster.

About a mile on the right of our road is

Spetisbury,

A large straggling village three miles from Blandford, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Stour. In this parish "is a very perfect encampment, called Spetisbury Ring, which has been considered by some as Roman, and by others as Saxon. Its proximity to the Icenning Street (which runs about a mile distant) seems at first to countenance the former supposition; but the same circumstance induces me to think that it was constructed after the Roman times. If it had been a Roman station, the road would certainly have been made to communicate with it, either directly or by means of a vicinal branch, no traces of which are to be perceived. Besides, the rampart is nearly circular, and several Saxon coins have been found within its area. The entrance is from the north-west."

Three miles from Shaftesbury is

Charborough, the ancient seat of the Earl and Drax Families, but now of R. E. D. Grosvenor, Esq. beautifully situated in a vale, surrounded by hills, covered with wood. Over the door of a small building in the grounds, is the following inscription:

Under this Roof, in the year 1686.
a set of patriotic Gentlemen of this Place
Concerted the Plan of the
GLORIOUS REVOLUTION,
with the immortal KING WILLIAM,
To whom we owe our deliverance
from Popery and Slavery;
The Expulsion of the Tyrant Race of
STUARTS,
The Restoration of our Liberties,
Security of our Properties,
Establishment of our national Honour and Wealth,
Englishmen! remember the Æra,
And consider that your Liberty obtained by the
virtues of your *Ancestors*
must be maintained
by *Yourselves*.
Dorset, 1780. Thomas Erle Drax.

Wimborne Minster, a town of great antiquity, and entitled to particular notice, on account of its beautiful Collegiate Church, is most delightfully situated in a vale, on the River Allen, near its confluence with the Stour. In the time of the Romans, this place was called *Vendagladia*, or *Ventageladia*, from its situation on a River. The present name is derived from the Saxon word Bourne, a brook, or running water; and Wim, the name of a little river, flowing on the north and east sides of the town.—The addition of *Minster*, which it owes to its church, distinguishes it from other towns of the name of Wimborne.

According to the oldest historians, this place was of considerable importance in the time of the Saxons; and, during this period, was the scene of several contests between Edward the elder, and Ethelward his cousin german, who attempted to usurp the throne. Wimborne, however, derives its particular celebrity from the *Nunnery* erected, according to Leland, between the years 705 and 722, by St. Cuthburga, daughter of Kenred, and sister of Ina, king of the

West Saxons, who was divorced from her husband Egfrid, in order that she might dedicate herself to religious exercises. This Monastery having been destroyed by the Danes, the house was converted into a college, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and, instead of nuns, a dean, four prebendaries, three vicars, four deacons, and five singing-men, were placed in it. This establishment was dissolved in 1547, and its revenues were vested in the crown. A part of these was afterwards granted by Queen Elizabeth to the corporation of the College, towards the foundation of a grammar-school, reserving to the crown a certain annual rent, which was remitted by her successor James I.

In the succeeding reign, the corporation surrendered their charter into the king's hands, in consideration of 1000l. and all the tithes, possessions, lands, &c. belonging to the church and school, were re-granted to 12 governors, who, besides other conditions, were to provide for the service of the Collegiate Church, three priests, or ministers, three clerks, four choristers, two singing-men, and an organist. This establishment has been nearly kept up ever since. The revenues amount to about 400l. per annum.

The church is as remarkable for the several peculiarities of its style and architecture, as for its great antiquity and venerable appearance. Mr. Gilpin asserts it to be of the earliest species of Saxon architecture. Dr. Stukeley, however, with several others, was of opinion, that the eastern part of the tower, and a great part of the Church, was built soon after the Conquest. It is in the form of a cross, with two quadrangular towers; one of them rising from the centre of the roof, and the other being at the west end. The former had anciently a spire of extraordiary height, said to have fallen down in the year 1600.

The whole building is divided in the manner of a cathedral, and consists of a chancel, nave, choir,

and side aisles, a transept, a cross aisle, and three porches.

There are several curious monuments in this church, of great antiquity, particularly that of King Ethelred, the brother of Alfred the Great, slain in a battle with the Danes. It consists of a brass plate, on which is engraved the effigies of the King in royal robes, with a crown on his head, and a sceptre in his hand, with the following inscription underneath:

IN HOC LOCO QUIESCAT CORPUS
S. ETHELREDI REGIS WEST SAXONUM
MARTYRIS QUI ANNO DOMINI DCCCLXXII.
XXIII.
APRILIS PER MANUS DANORVM PAGAN.
ORVM OCCVBVIT.

Under an arch, on the south side of the choir, is the monument of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset (the parents of Margaret Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII.) Their effigies, formed of alabaster, curiously carved, lie upon an altar-tomb of grey marble. On the opposite side of the choir lies Gertrude, Marchioness of Exeter, mother of Edward Courtnaye, the last Earl of Devon.

The following epitaph is placed by Mrs. Anne Russel, as a pious and grateful tribute to the best of mothers:

Fare well, blest shade! from earth to heav'n remov'd,
In death lamented, and in life belov'd!
Oh! if to bear a mild and generous heart,
To act the kindest, yet the firmest part;
To fill each scene with decency and ease,
In conscious merit ever sure to please;
Prompt to relieve, and to prevent distress,
Feeling no greater blessing than to bless;
To be whate'er or cheers or softens life,
The tender parent, sister, friend, and wife.
If, reader, these can claim a gen'rous tear,
Approach—and pay the mournful tribute here."

The aisles, particularly the south one, are distinguished by a variety of handsome monuments.

There is nothing at Wimborne Minster particularly interesting, besides the Church. The town is governed by two bailiffs, and has long been styled a borough, but was never incorporated. It contains 673 houses, and 3039 inhabitants.

At Wimborne there is a manufactory of worsted stockings, in which upwards of 1000 women and children are employed in knitting, who earn from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day for their labour.

About a quarter of a mile from the town is *St. Margaret's Hospital*, an alms-house, originally endowed, and intended for *lepers*, but now appropriated to the relief of poor aged people, nominated by the lord of the manor of Kingston Lacey. The revenues, in 1786, amounted to 35l. 11s.

Two miles from Wimborne stands Great Canford Hall, formerly the residence of John of Gaunt: his kitchen, with an immense fire-place, and several of the out-buildings, still remain. It is now the property of the Dowager Countess of Shaftesbury, who has given an asylum in it to a society of White Carmelite nuns, who were forced to leave the continent at the French revolution.

About five miles north of Wimborne Minster is *Horton*, three miles east of More Critchell, the seat of the late C. Sturt, Esq. At this place there was "an Abbey, or Priory, called in the Saxon times, *Hordunensis Cenobium*, of the Benedictine order, founded in the reign of King Edgar, 961, by Orgar, Earl of Devon. It was first erected in a wood, but was in Malmsbury's time destroyed. Others say it was founded by his son Ordulph. This Orgar is said to have been a person of gigantic stature, and could extend his legs from one bank to another, across a river ten feet broad, which ran near the forest here, full of deer, whose heads he used to amuse himself with cutting off with a small knife, into the stream, as he straddled over. His son Adulf, or Edulph, inherited his father's strength, and, with the greatest ease imaginable, forced open the gates

of Exeter, when barred and locked, tearing down part of the wall along with them; and not content with these marks of his prowess, with a single stroke of his foot made the doors fly off their hinges, and shivered the wood. He finished Tavistock Abbey, which his father had begun in 861; the foundation charter gives Adulf all the merit of it. But all his stoutness was not a match for death, which took him off in the prime of life, Anno Domini, 971. He had a daughter named Elfrida, famous for her beauty and marriage, first with Ethelwolde, Earl of the East Angles, and afterwards with King Edgar, whose son Edward fell a martyr to her ambition, as her first husband had done before. According to Mr. Prince, his sepulchre might have been seen not long since at Tavistoke. He ordered his body to be buried at *Horton*, which church being to receive some considerable marks of his bounty at the same time, the violence of the Abbot of Tavistock prevented it, transferring both the donor and the donation to his own house.

The parish church of Horton was wholly re-edificed about the year 1770. It was a very ancient structure, dedicated to St. Wolfrida, mother to St. Edith, Abbess of Wilton. There was a monument in the aisle, in the belfry of the old church, to the memory of Henry Hastings, fourth son of George Earl of Huntingdon, whose curious character is commemorated by an inscription, under an original picture, at Lord Shaftesbury's, to the following effect:

"In the year 1688 lived Mr. Hastings, by his quality, son, brother, and uncle, to the Earls of Huntingdon. He was, peradventure, an original in our age, or rather the copy of our ancient nobility, in hunting, not in warlike times. He was low, very strong, and very active; of a reddish flaxen hair; his clothes always green cloth, and never worth, when new, five pounds. His house was perfectly of the old fashion, in the midst of

a large park, well stocked with deer; and near the house rabbits for his kitchen; many fish-ponds, great store of wood and timber; a bowling green in it, long but narrow, full of high ridges, it being never levelled since it was ploughed: they used round sand-bowls; and it had a banqueting house, like a stand, a large one built in a tree. He kept all manner of sport hounds that ran buck, fox, hare, otter, and badger; and hawks long and short-winged. He had all sorts of nets for fish. He had a walk in the New Forest, and the manor of Christ Church; this last supplied him with red deer, sea and river fish; and indeed, all his neighbours' grounds and royalties were free to him, who bestowed all his time on these sports, but what he borrowed to caress his neighbour's wives and daughters; there being not a woman in all his walks, of the pedigree of a yeoman's wife or under, and under the age of forty, but it was her own fault if he was not intimately acquainted with her. This made him very popular; always speaking himself to the husband, brother, or father, who was to boot very welcome in his house. Whenever he came there, he found beef, pudding, and small beer, in great plenty; the house not so neatly kept as to shame him or his dirty shoes; the great hall strewed with marrow-bones, full of hawks, perches, hounds, spaniels and terriers; the upper side of the hall hung with fox-skins of this or the last year's killing; here and there a polecat intermixed; game keepers' and hunters' poles in great abundance. The parlour was a large room as properly furnished. On a great hearth, paved with brick, lay some terriers, and the choicest hounds and spaniels. Seldom but two of the great chairs had litters of cats in them, which were not to be disturbed: he having always three or four attending him at dinner; and a little white stick, of fourteen inches long, lying by his trencher, that he might defend such meat as he had no mind to part with to them. The windows, which were very large, served for

places to lay his arrows, cross-bows, and stone-bows, and suchlike accoutrements; the corners of the room full of the best chosen hunting or hawking-poles; his oyster-table at the lower end, which was of constant use, for he never failed to eat oysters all seasons, both dinner and supper: the neighbouring town of Poole supplied him with them. The upper part of the room had two tables and a desk, on the one side of which was a church-bible, and on the other side the Book of Martyrs: on the table were hawks'-hoods, bells, and such like; two or three old hats, with their crowns thrust in, so as to hold ten or a dozen eggs, which were of the pheasant kind of poultry: these he took great care of, and fed himself. Tables, dice, cards, and boxes were not wanting. In the hole of the desk were store of tobacco-pipes that had been used. On one side of this end of the room was the door of a closet, wherein stood the strong beer and wine, which never came from thence but in single glasses, that being the rule of the house exactly observed; for he never exceeded in drink or permitted it. On the other side was the door of an old chapel, not used for devotion; the pulpit, as the safest place, was never wanting of a cold chine of beef, venison pasty, gammon of bacon, or a great apple-pie with thick crust, extremely baked. His table cost him not much, though it was good to eat at. His sports supplied all but beef or mutton, except Fridays, when he had the best of salt-fish, as well as other fish he could get; and this was the day his neighbours of best quality visited him. He never wanted a London pudding, and always sung in eating it 'with my pert eyes thereina,' ('my part lies thereina,' it should be.) He drank a glass or two of wine at meals, very often put syrup of gilly-flowers in his sack, and had always a tun glass without feet, stood by him holding a pint of small beer, which he often stirred with rosemary. He was well natured, but soon angry, calling his servants bastards and cuckolding knaves, in one of which he often spoke

truth to his own knowledge, and sometimes in both, though of the same man. He lived to be an hundred, never lost his eye-sight, but always wrote and read without spectacles, and got on horseback without help. Untill past fourscore, he rode to the death of the stag as well as any."

In this parish, surrounding the site and ruins of an ancient chapel and chapel-yard, is a large and deep circular entrenchment, without any entrance; the area contains about an acre: it is quite distinct from the chapel-yard, which is easily distinguished from it, and is of an oblong figure, nearly approaching to a long square: the ditch is within: the turnpike road crosses it; and it is boldest in the semicircle on the west. On the south side four barrows surround it; one levelled, had four men: two remain in *Barrow Field.* In Wimborne St. Giles's Church-yard is another planted. In Hollon Field another, planted by Lord Shaftesbury; and one almost levelled: a raised one from the outer camp to the river points south. Badbury lies south-west. In levelling the south vallum, great quantities of human bones, with spear heads, and pieces of iron, were found within it.

"The space between the chapel-yard and the entrenchment is very unequal, and contains several tumuli, and their respective hollows, from whence perhaps they were dug. In some parts the vallum is high, and the ditch broad, but in others the rampart decreases till it becomes level with the plane of the hill, and seems intended to enclose fifteen acres. There is only one entrance at the west; on every side, near two miles round, are many tumuli, several of which have been opened but no coins, armour, or bones, found. In the adjoining fields are many works of this nature.

"In the midst of a heath, called *Shag's Heath,* lying between the roads leading to Ringwood and Fording Bridge, is an enclosure of several fields, in

one of which, in a ditch under an ashen tree, inscribed with several names, and visited by the curious, was taken the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth, after his flight from the battle of Sedgemoor, in Somersetshire. Several of our historians will have him to be taken at Ringwood, Holt, &c. but that it really happened here is proved by the testimony of several persons lately living, who remembered the fact.

"The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that after the defeat of Sedgemoor, the Duke and Lord Lumley quitted their horses at Woodyates, whence the former, disguised as a peasant, wandered hither. He dropped his gold snuff-box in a pea-field, where it was afterwards found full of gold pieces, and brought to Mrs. Uvedale, of Horton: one of the finders had 15l. for half the contents or value of it. The Duke went on to the *Island*, as it is called, a cluster of small farms in the middle of the heath, and there concealed himself in a deep ditch, under the ash. When the pursuers came up, a woman who lived in a neighbouring cot, gave information of his being somewhere in the island, which was immediately surrounded by soldiers, who passed the night there, and threatened to fire the neighbouring cots. As they were going away next morning, one of them espied the brown skirt of the Duke's coat and seized him. The soldier no sooner knew him, than he burst into tears, and reproached himself for the unhappy discovery. The family of the woman who first gave the information, are said to have fallen into decay, and never thrived afterwards. The Duke was carried before Anthony Ettricke, Esq. of Holt, a justice of the peace, who ordered him to London. Being asked what he would do, if set at liberty, he answered, if his horse and arms were restored, he only desired to ride through the army, and he defied them all to take him again. Farmer Kerly's grandmother, late-

ly dead, saw him, and described him as a black, genteel, tall man, with a dejected countenance. The close where he concealed himself is called *Monmouth Close*, and is the extremest north-east field of the Island."—*Hutchins.*

Badbury,

Or *Badbury Rings*, a Roman encampment, is situated on a considerable eminence about four miles north-west from Wimborne, to which it appears to have been a summer station. It was afterwards occupied, however, by the Saxons. We read of Edward the elder posting himself here, when on the march to punish his rebellious kinsman Ethelward, who had taken Wimborne. The Roman road leads to the north-east entrance of this fine encampment, which consists of three somewhat oblong ramparts, and the inmost part commands a most extensive horizon. The Isle of Wight may be seen to the south-west, and the Purbeck Hills bound the view toward the south. A great number of Roman coins, urns, &c. have been found here, and are in the possession of Henry Bankes, Esq. of Kingstone Hall.

Kingstone Hall, the seat of Henry Bankes, Esq. member of parliament for the borough of Corfe Castle, stands upon a gentle ascent, about three miles north-west from Wimborne Minster. It is a spacious building, erected some time about the year 1663. There is a valuable collection of paintings at this house; among which are some remarkably fine portraits by Vandyke, Lely, and Sir Godfrey Kneller, and a most capital landscape by *Berghem.*

Poole.

Poole is said to have formerly been within the hundred of Hasler. It takes its name from the bay on the north side of which it is situated. It lies on the border of a barren dreary heath, and offers no very pleasant prospect to travellers who have left a more delightful part of the country.

Poole is a peninsula adjoining the parish of Canford, by an isthmus or neck of land, and formerly the most considerable port and most populous town in the county.

It stands upon ground three quarters of a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. There are only three or four principal streets, taking a direction nearly from N. E. to S. W. besides a cross-street, which is parallel with the quay, having some lanes of communication.

In general, the buildings are mean and low, but several handsome houses have lately been erected, particularly at the entrance of the town. The number of houses, according to the returns under the Population Act, appears to be 1029, and 4816 inhabitants.

The principal trade from Poole is to Newfoundland; till within these few years this was very considerable. Its first falling off was at the period of the American war; and afterwards when the conquests of France had closed all the markets in the Mediterranean against us. The present exports to Newfoundland, consist of provisions, nets, cordage, oil-cloth, and all sorts of wearing apparel; in short, of commodities of every kind for the supply of that island. Its imports consist principally of cod and salmon, which are afterwards shipped to foreign markets, oil, seal-skins, firs, and cranberries.

In the 23d of Henry III. a market and fair were granted to be held at Le Pole, but it is not certain whether it was at this place. In the 30th Henry III. the town obtained the grant of a market on Thursday, and two fairs annually, one on the feast of St. Philip and James, and seven succeeding days; and another on All-Soul's day, and seven days succeeding; there is also a small market held on Mondays.

Though the liberties do not extend without Poolgate, they possess a right in the common of Canford by prescription, and may cut as much heath, turf,

and furze, in the waste ground belonging to that manor as they used to do, and may keep any kind and number of cattle.

In the British times we discover no traces of this place, nor in the Roman. Mr. Baxter, indeed, makes it *Bolnelaunium* as he corrects it, or *Bolbelaunium* of Ravenas, which he derives from the British *Bolne laun iu*, importing an head, or bay full of water. This agrees very well with the nature of the bay, and the order of Ravenas. There is a Roman road from Winbourn to Poole. The *dorsum* is plain a little beyond Cogdean Elms, where are two large barrows on the left hand of it; thence it has been traced into a private lane, that ends in the Poole road, near Mr. Hiley's house at Kyrton, near Poole. This may be an argument to prove that the Romans made this spot a convenient landing-place, whence they directed their marches to and from their station at Winbourn, but not that any town was here at that time; and perhaps *Bolnelaunium* may be only the name of the bay.

We find no notice of this place as being of any note, either in the time of the Saxons or their successors the Normans; it is not mentioned in Doomsday Book, being probably then comprised in the survey of Canford, of which it was a member, till made a town and county, and became independent.

It appears afterwards to have met with a variety of fortune. About 1365, 39 Edward III. it was made a garrison for the wars in France, when that Prince claimed that kingdom. Soon after, 42 Edward III. it seems to have fallen into decay; and members were not sent to parliament from that year to 31 Henry VI. Yet by this charter, when he removed the privileges of Melcombe to Poole, it was said to be then well inhabited, and visited by great numbers of people. That prince gave it great encouragement, and granted several privileges, as did his successors Edward IV. and Richard III.

Mr. Camden observes, "That in the last age it

was improved from a sedge-plat with a few fishermen's huts, to be a well-frequented market-town, and grew very wealthy, being adorned with fair buildings; and from the time of Richard III. by I know not what ill-destiny, or rather negligence of the towns-men, it has been decaying; so that now the houses, for want of inhabitants, are quite out of repair."

During the whole time of the Civil Wars it was a garrison for the Parliament, and very troublesome to the neighbouring country, particularly to Blandford, Winborn, Wareham, and Corfe-Castle. In August, 1642, the treasurer of the county paid fifty pounds towards fortifying the town. It was soon after summoned by the Marquis of Hertford, then at Sherborne, but to no purpose; and was then provided with ordnance and a garrison.

Poole, previous to and long after the Conquest, formed a part of the Manor of Canford, and as parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster belonged to the Lords of that village, viz. the Longespees, the Plantaganets, the Lacys, and the Monteacutes. From the fourteenth of Henry VI. to the time of Charles I. it became possessed by several persons, and at length granted by the latter monarch to the Webb family. Sir John Webb, Bart. is the present possessor. When Poole was made a town and county of itself by Queen Elizabeth, the manor was severed from that of Canford, yet the lord of Canford has a right to hold a court in Poole once a year, and it still pays the ancient fee-farms to the Lord of that manor.

The borough of Poole is very ancient, as appears from William Longespee granting a number of privileges to the burgesses both by sea and land, on payment of seventy marks. The town, however, is indebted to Queen Elizabeth for its most considerable immunities. By this sovereign it was made a corporate and free town, and formed into a distinct county, appointing its own sheriff in the

same manner as the town and county of Southampton. The corporation consists of a mayor, four aldermen, and twenty-eight burgesses.

The mayor is chosen out of the burgesses, on the Friday before St. Matthew's day, and is always a justice of peace; and when his year is expired commences alderman, and is senior bailiff and justice of peace for the year ensuing, He is admiral within the liberties, and was anciently mayor of the staple. The number of aldermen is uncertain, because every mayor, after he has passed the chair, becomes an alderman.

The burgesses are chosen by the mayor, four aldermen, and 18 burgesses. The recorder and town-clerk are chosen, when a vacancy happens, by the burgesses; but must be confirmed by the King; they annually choose, on the same day that the mayor is elected, a senior bailiff, a sheriff, a water-bailiff, two coroners, and four justices of the peace. There is a session held for the town by the mayor four times a year; when any criminal or civil causes are to be tried, one of the judges of the circuit comes hither in his way to Dorchester, and holds the assizes; but civil causes are generally tried at Dorchester or Winchester.

The fee-farm rents are, and have anciently been paid to the Lords of Canford, and are as follow:

	£.	s.	d.
Half a mark the first day	0	6	8
Chief rent	5	16	7½
Fees paid at five other court days . . .	0	7	6
For 1lb. of wax, and 1lb. of cummin .	0	0	10½
Total	£6	11	8

The right of election of members of parliament is lodged in the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, within and without the town, to the number of about 96, and the indenture executed by them and the sheriff, who is returning officer. The freeholders of this town, though a county of itself, claim a right

to vote at the election for knights of the shire for this county; but this claim has not been always allowed, and their right remains undetermined.

In the month of June, 1653, a very extraordinary phenomenon was seen in this town: a black cloud kept hanging over the place for about two hours, and at last burst, but instead of common water, the whole was like a shower of blood; and which falling on the leaves of the trees, tinged them in such a manner that they appeared as scarlet, and many being plucked off were sent, as great curiosities, to the learned in London, and other parts of the kingdom

Poole Bay falls into the British Channel by a narrow entrance on the east. It contains several islands and mud banks, intersected by channels, which admit the passage of boats and small fishing vessels. The fishermen of Wareham, upon paying a small fine to the lord of Corfe Castle, have a right to fish here. Oysters are taken in great abundance, and sent to the London markets; there are other fish taken in the harbour, among which the plaice is considered particularly excellent. Herrings have been caught in such plenty as to be sold for a penny a dozen.

Poole Harbour extends about four miles from North Haven to Radcliffe Attwell, on the Purbeck shore. The number of ships now belonging to this port is supposed to amount to 250, of a total burthen of not less than 125,000 tons. The trade is chiefly confined to Newfoundland. A court of admiralty, belonging to the port, is held occasionally, the mayor being president.

NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

Having already noticed in the preceding sheets of this work, the various natural productions of the county, we have scarce any thing to add in this place: our readers, however, will be amused by an account of an extraordinary person, of the name of Roger Gill, a native of Wimbourne, one of the

singing men there, who died in 1767, aged 67, remarkable for chewing his meat or cud twice over, like a sheep or ox. Being examined in 1765, when he was 64 years old, he said he seldom eat any breakfast in his latter days. He generally dined about twelve or one o'clock, eat pretty heartily and quickly, without much chewing, or mastication. He never drank with his dinner, but some time afterwards about a pint of such malt liquor as he could procure. He had an aversion to all kinds of spirituous liquors; nor did he ever taste them in any shape, except a little punch, and was never fond of that. He eat but little butter; pease, pancakes, and fresh-water fish, he could not touch, except a little bit of broiled eel, they all returning greasy into his throat. He eat all garden stuff except carrots. He usually began his second chewing about a quarter or half an hour, sometimes later, after dinner, when every morsel came up successively sweeter and sweeter to the taste. Sometimes a morsel would prove offensive and crude; in which case he spit it out. The chewing continued about an hour or more, and sometimes would leave him a little while, in which case he would be sick at stomach, troubled with the heart-burn, loss of appetite, foul breath, &c. Smoaking tobacco would sometimes stop his chewing, but was not attended with any ill consequence. About four months before he died this faculty of chewing entirely forsook him, and the poor man remained in great agonies till the time of his death. He was some years ago examined as to his case by Dr. Archer, of Dorchester, and three other persons, to whom he produced a morsel of beef and cabbage which stuck in his mouth whilst he was talking to them about it.

The Fossil Coal found at Kimeridge, on the sea coast, deserves the attention of the curious.

Dr. Maton describes it "as an argillacious slate, in a high degree of impregnation with bitumen, and of a blackish brown colour. It is found in

large lumps in a stratum about three feet deep; but does not extend to any great distance from the shore. It burns very strong and bright, and emits a sulphurous smell. When exposed to the atmosphere it soon falls into pieces; but in the cliffs, or under water, it is very hard. The price is about eight shillings per ton; it is chiefly used in ovens, and by the poor people."

At the south end of Stowborough, in the road to Grange, near Corfe Castle, stood a barrow, called King Barrow, 100 feet in diameter, and 12 feet in perpendicular height.

In the parish of Lullworth, about a mile from Lullworth Castle, is an encampment or fortification, called by the country people, *Flowers Barrow*, which Mr. Hutchins imagines to be a corruption of Florus Barrow, probably from some Roman officer of that name.

In the vicinity of Fordington, a large village adjoining Dorchester on the east, there have been many Roman antiquities discovered. The east end of Fordington has been called *Icen* town time immemorially.

Between Maiden Newton and Frampton, a beautiful tesselated pavement was discovered, in April, 1794, at the depth of one foot from the surface of the ground.

To these it may be added, that the Spanish chesnut tree, under which the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth and his party dined before the battle of Sedgemoor, is still standing in Dillington Park, near Ilmenster. It now measures 26 feet in circumference, and annually produces a large quantity of nuts.

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